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THE HISTORY OF TOM
JONES, A FOUNDLING
Volume 1

H. Fielding, Esq.

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FIELDING - HIST

SIX VOL

7

ORY OF TOM
JONES.
JAMES.

THE
HISTORY
OF
TOM JONES,
A
FOUNDLING.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

By HENRY FIELDING, Esq;

—*Mores hominum multorum vidit.*—

LONDON:

Printed for A. MILLAR, over-against
Catherine-street in the Strand.

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The Reader is desired to correct the following
E R R A T A.

V O L. I. Page 11, line 25. for was read *had*. p. 52, l. 18. dele that. p. 57, l. 12. for *Military* read *Militant*. -p. 60, l. 6. for it is read it. p. 68, l. 14. read what it. p. 99, l. 12. for bare read borne. p. 151, l. 10. for seventeen read nineteen. p. 209, l. 15. for he could read could.

V O L. II. Page 29, l. 14. read twenty. p. 86, l. 23. read whipped at. p. 195, l. 24. dele on. p. 230, l. 21. for these read they. p. 273, l. 16. for bare read borne. p. 289, l. 4. for *Wrath* read *wroth*. p. 306, l. 22. for suffered read induced.

V O L. III. Page 19, l. 10. dele that. p. 27, l. 28. read as he never concealed this Hatred. p. 40, l. 10. for satisfied read convinced. p. 57, l. 26. read preserves and requires. p. 134, l. 2. dele that. l. 9. dele so. p. 238. l. last, for prostitute read profligate. p. 274, l. 21. for these read they. p. 277, l. 21. read affronts. p. 294, l. 16. read Louage. p. 307, l. 8. dele *Doomsday Book*, or. p. 330, l. 14. read curse. p. 348, l. 12. put a Comma only after charming.

V O L. IV. Page 35, l. 1. read pricked up. p. 90, l. 20. read they are effected. l. 25. dele such. p. 91, l. 3. for *Cafe* read *Gold*. p. 110, l. 12. for our read old. p. 111, l. 22. for which read and. p. 120, l. 1. dele Comma after not. p. 122, l. 8. dele by. p. 169, l. 27. read think it material. l. 28. dele so. p. 179, l. 3. for its read her. p. 185, l. 14. read the Truth, of this Degree of Suspicion I believe. l. 23. for who read which. p. 193, l. 18. for Crime read Shame, p. 212, l. 16. for nor read and. p. 231, l. 13. for by read for. p. 235, l. 20. for risen read raised. p. 270, l. 9. read *Lalogen*. p. 294, l. 13. for Alternative read Alteration.

V O L. V. Page 66. l. 20. for *Cannister* read *Miller*. p. 113, l. 1. read Characters. p. 172, l. 6. read existing. p. 181, l. 6. for in read on, p. 182, l. 11. read bringing her into. p. 223, l. 12. dele not. p. 249, l. 25. read sat. p. 251, l. 27. read two or three. p. 263, l. 20. read Lady. p. 272, l. 12. dele that. p. 274, l. 10. dele as. p. 292, l. 11. for for read on. l. 25. read over. p. 283. l. 9. read in his Way.

ЭНТ

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To the HONOURABLE

George Lyttleton, Esq;

One of the Lords Commissioners of
the TREASURY, and to

SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING your con-
stant Refusal, when I have asked
Leave to prefix your Name to
this Dedication, I must still insist on
my Right to desire your Protection of
this Work, I shall make you of
service you will consider you boy of

A 2

To

iv DEDICATION.

To you, Sir, it is owing that this History was ever begun. It was by your Desire that I first thought of such a Composition. So many Years have since past, that you may have, perhaps, forgotten this Circumstance: But your Desires are to me in the Nature of Commands; and the Impression of them is never to be erased from my Memory.

Again, Sir, without your Assistance this History had never been completed; Be not startled at the Assertion. I do not intend to draw on you the Suspicion of being a Romance Writer, I mean no more than that I partly owe to you my Existence during great Part
of

DEDICATION.

of the Time which I have employed
in composing it : another Matter which
it may be necessary to remind you of ;
since there are certain Actions of which
you are apt to be extremely forgetful ;
but of these I hope I shall always
have a better Memory than your-
self. Lastly, it is owing to you, that the
History appears what it now is. If
there be in this Work, as some have
been pleased to say, a stronger Picture
of a truly benevolent Mind than is to
be found in any other, who that knows
you, and a particular Acquaintance of
yours, will doubt whence that Benevo-
lence hath been copied ? The World
will not, I believe, make me the

vi. DEDICATION.

Compliment of thinking I took it from myself. I care not : This they shall own, that the two Persons from whom I have taken it, that is to say, two of the best and worthiest Men in the World, are strongly and zealously my Friends. I might be contented with this, and yet my Vanity will add a third to the Number ; and him one of the greatest and noblest, not only in his Rank, but in every public and private Virtue. But here whilst my Gratitude for the princely Benefactions of the Duke of *Bedford* bursts from my Heart, you must forgive my reminding you, that it was you who first recommended me to the Notice of my Benefactor.

And

DEDICATION. vii

And what are your Objections to the Allowance of the Honour which I have solicited? Why, you have commended the Book so warmly, that you should be ashamed of reading your Name before the Dedication. Indeed, Sir, if the Book itself doth not make you ashamed of your Commendations, nothing that I can here write will; or ought. I am not to give up my Right to your Protection and Patronage, because you have commended my Book: For though I acknowledge so many Obligations to you, I do not add this to the Number; in which Friendship, I am convinced, hath so little Share: Since that can neither bias your Judgment, nor pervert your Integrity. An Enemy may at any Time obtain your

A 4

Com-

VIII. DEDICATION.

Commendation by only deserving it ;
and the utmost which the Faults of
your Friends can hope for, is your Si-
lence ; or, perhaps, if too severely ac-
cused, your gentle Palliation.

In short, Sir, I suspect, that your
Disslike of public Praise is your true
Objection to granting my Request. I
have observed, that you have, in com-
mon with my two other Friends, an
Unwillingness to hear the least Mention
of your own Virtues ; that, as a great
Poet says of one of you, (he might
justly have said it of all three) you

*Do Good by stealth, and blush to find
it Fame.*

If Men of this Disposition are as
careful to shun Applause, as others
are

are to escape Censure, how just must be your Apprehension of your Character falling into my Hands; since what would not a Man have Reason to dread, if attacked by an Author who had received from him Injuries equal to my Obligations to you!

And will not this Dread of Censure increase in Proportion to the Matter which a Man is conscious of having afforded for it? If his whole Life, for Instance, should have been one continued Subject of Satire, he may well tremble when an incensed Satyrift takes him in Hand. Now, Sir, if we apply this to your modest Aversion to Panegyric, how reasonable will your Fears of me appear!

A. 5.

Yet

X DEDICATION

Yet surely you might have gratified my Ambition, from this single Confidence, that I shall always prefer the Indulgence of your Inclinations to the Satisfaction of my own. A very strong Instance of which I shall give you in this Address; in which I am determined to follow the Example of all other Dedicators, and will consider not what my Patron really deserves to have written, but what he will be best pleased to read.

Without further Preface then, I here present you with the Labours of some Years of my Life. What Merit these Labours have is already known to yourself. If, from your favourable Judgment, I

have

have conceived some Esteem for them, it cannot be imputed to Vanity; since I should have agreed as implicitly to your Opinion, had it been given in Favour of any other Man's Production. Negatively, at least, I may be allowed to say, that had I been sensible of any great Demerit in the Work, you are the last Person to whose Protection I would have ventured to recommend it.

From the Name of my Patron, indeed, I hope my Reader will be convinced, at his very Entrance on this Work, that he will find in the whole Course of it nothing prejudicial to the Cause of Religion and Virtue; nothing inconsistent with the strictest Rules of

xii DEDICATION.

Decency, nor which can offend even
the chaste Eye in the Perusal. On
the contrary, I declare, that to recom-
mend Goodness and Innocence hath
been my sincere Endeavour in this
History. This honest Purpose you have
been pleased to think I have attained;
And to say the Truth, it is likeliest to
be attained in Books of this Kind;
for an Example is a Kind of Picture,
in which Virtue becomes as it were
an Object of Sight; and strikes us
with an Idea of that Loveliness, which
Plato asserts there is in her naked
Charms. Besides displaying
a Desides displaying that Beauty of Vir-
tue which may attract the Admiration
of Mankind, I have attempted to en-
gage

gage a stronger Motive to Human Action, in her Favour, by convincing Men, that their true Interest directs them to a Pursuit of her. For this Purpose I have shewn, that no Acquisitions of Guilt can compensate the Loss of that solid, inward, Comfort of Mind, which is the sure Companion of Innocence and Virtue; nor can in the least balance the Evil of that Horror and Anxiety which, in their Room, Guilt introduces into our Bosoms. And again, that as these Acquisitions are, in themselves, generally worthless, so are the Means to attain them not only base and infamous, but at best uncertain, and always full of Danger. Lastly, I have endeavoured strongly to inculcate, that Virtue and Innocence can scarce ever alight

be.

be injured but by Indiscretion ; and that it is this alone which often betrays them into the Snare's that Deceit and Villainy spread for them. A Moral which I have the more industriously laboured, as the teaching it is, of all others, the likeliest to be attended with Success ; since, I believe, it is much easier to make good Men wise, than to make bad Men good. And this is my chief Aim, laid down at first. But for those Purposes I have employ'd all the Wit and Humour of which I am Master in the following History ; wherein I have endeavoured to laugh Mankind out of their favourite Follies and Vices. How far I have succeeded in this good Attempt, I shall submit to the candid Reader, with only two Requests.

quests: First, That he will not expect to find Perfection in this Work; and Secondly, That he will excuse some Parts of it, if they fall short of that little Merit which I hope may appear in others.

I will detain you, Sir, no longer. Indeed I have run into a Preface, while I professed to write a Dedication. But how can it be otherwise? I dare not praise you; and the only Means I know of to avoid it, when you are in my Thoughts, are either to be entirely silent, or to turn my Thoughts to some other Subject.

Pardon, therefore, what I have said in this Epistle, not only without your Con-

Consent, but absolutely against it; and give me at least, Leave, in this public Manner, to declare, that I am, with the highest Respect and Gratitude,

SIR,

Your most Obliged,

Obedient Humble Servant

work is well known to have been done by him; it is generally allowed that he is the author of **Henry Fielding**.

Verma (प्रदीप यादव) का नाम विजयनगर के राजा विजयनगर के राजा विजयनगर के राजा

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ADMITTED. xxvii
that it may be
the best of its kind.

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THE HISTORY OF A FOUNDLING.

BOOK I.

Containing as much of the Birth of the Foundling as is necessary or proper to acquaint the Reader with in the Beginning of this History.

CHAP I.

The Introduction to the Work, or Bill of Fare to the Feast.

AN Author ought to consider himself, not as a Gentleman who gives a private or eleemosynary Treat, but rather as one who keeps a public Ordinary, at which all Persons are welcome

VOL. I.

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for

for their Money. In the former Case, it is well known, that the Entertainer provides what Fare he pleases ; and tho' this should be very indifferent, and utterly disagreeable to the Taste of his Company, they must not find any Fault; nay, on the contrary, Good-Breeding forces them outwardly to approve and to commend whatever is set before them. Now the contrary of this happens to the Master of an Ordinary. Men who pay for what they eat, will insist on gratifying their Palates, however nice and even whimsical these may prove; and if every Thing is not agreeable to their Taste, will challenge a Right to censure, to abuse, and to d——n their Dinner without Controul.

To prevent therefore giving Offence to their Customers by any such Disappointment, it hath been usual, with the honest and well-meaning Host, to provide a Bill of Fare, which all Persons may peruse at their first Entrance into the House; and, having thence acquainted themselves with the Entertainment which they may expect, may either stay and regale with what is provided for them, or may depart to some other Ordinary better accommodated to their Taste.

Ch. I. & FOUNDLING. 3

As we do not disdain to borrow Wit or Wisdom from any Man who is capable of lending us either, we have condescended to take a Hint from these honest Victuallers, and shall prefix not only a general Bill of Fare to our whole Entertainment, but shall likewise give the Reader particular Bills to every Course which is to be served up in this and the ensuing Volumes.

The Provision then which we have here made is no other than HUMAN NATURE. Nor do I fear that my sensible Reader, though most luxurious in his Taste, will start, cavil, or be offended, because I have named but one Article. The Tortoise, as the Alderman of *Bristol*, well learned in eating, knows by much Experience, besides the delicious *Calibash* and *Calipee*, contains many different Kinds of Food; nor can the learned Reader be ignorant, that in *Human Nature*, tho' here collected under one general Name, is such prodigious Variety, that a Cook will have sooner gone through all the several Species of animal and vegetable Food in the World, than an Author will be able to exhaust so extensive a Subject.

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An Objection may perhaps be apprehended from the more delicate, that this Dish is too common and vulgar; for what else is the Subject of all the Romances, Novels, Plays and Poems, with which the Stalls abound. Many exquisite Viands might be rejected by the Epicure, if it was a sufficient Cause for his contemning of them as common and vulgar, that something was to be found in the most poultry Alleys under the same Name. In reality, true Nature is as difficult to be met with in Authors, as the *Bayonne Ham* or *Bologna Sausage* is to be found in the Shops.

But the whole, to continue the same Metaphor, consists in the Cookery of the Author; for, as Mr. Pope tells us,

True Wit is Nature to Advantage drest,
What oft' was thought, but ne'er so well
exprest.

The same Animal which hath the Honour to have some Part of his Flesh eaten at the Table of a Duke, may perhaps be degraded in another Part, and some of his Limbs gibbeted, as it were, in the vilest Stall in Town. Where then lies the Difference between the Food of the Nobleman and the Porter,

Porter, if both are at Dinner on the same Ox or Calf, but in the seasoning, the dressing, the garnishing, and the setting forth: Hence the one provokes and incites the most languid Appetite, and the other turns and palls that which is the sharpest and keenest.

In like manner, the Excellence of the mental Entertainment consists less in the Subject, than in the Author's Skill in well dressing it up. How pleased therefore will the Reader be to find, that we have, in the following Work, adhered closely to one of the highest Principles of the best Cook which the present Age, or perhaps that of *Heliogabalus*, hath produced. This great Man, as is well known to all polite Lovers of eating, begins at first by setting plain Things before his hungry Guests, rising afterwards by Degrees, as their Stomachs may be supposed to decrease, to the very Quintessence of Sauce and Spices. In like manner, we shall represent Human Nature at first to the keen Appetite of our Reader, in that more plain and simple Manner in which it is found in the Country, and shall hereafter hash and ragoo it with all the high-*French* and *Italian* Seasoning of Affectation and Vice which Courts and Cities afford.

B 3

By

By these Means, we doubt not but our Reader may be rendered desirous to read on for ever, as the great Person, just above-mentioned, is supposed to have made some Persons eat.

Having premised thus much, we will now detain those, who like our Bill of Fare, no longer from their Diet, and shall proceed directly to serve up the first Course of our History, for their Entertainment.

C H A P. II.

A short Description of 'Squire Allworthy, and a fuller Account of Miss Bridget Allworthy his Sister.

IN that Part of the western Division of this Kingdom, which is commonly called *Somersetshire*, there lately lived (and perhaps lives still) a Gentleman whose Name was *Allworthy*, and who might well be called the Favourite of both Nature and Fortune; for both of these seem to have contended which should bless and enrich him most. In this Contention, Nature may seem to some to have come off victorious, as she bestowed on him many Gifts; while Fortune

Fcrtune had only one Gift in her Power; but in pouring forth this, she was so very profuse, that others perhaps may think this single Endowment to have been more than equivalent to all the various Blessings which he enjoyed from Nature. From the former of these, he derived an agreeable Person, a sound Constitution, a solid Understanding, and a benevolent Heart; by the latter, he was decreed to the Inheritance of one of the largest Estates in the County.

This Gentleman had, in his Youth, married a very worthy and beautiful Woman, of whom he had been extremely fond: By her he had three Children, all of whom died in their Infancy. He had likewise had the Misfortune of burying this beloved Wife herself, about five Years before the Time in which this History chuses to set out. This Loss, however great, he bore like a Man of Sense and Constancy; tho' it must be confess, he would often talk a little whimsically on this Head: For he sometimes said, he looked on himself as still married, and considered his Wife as only gone a little before him, a Journey which he should most certainly, sooner or later, take after her; and that he had not the least Doubt of meeting her again, in a

B 4. Place

Place where he should never part with her more. Sentiments for which his Sense was arraigned by one Part of his Neighbours, his Religion by a second, and his Sincerity by a third.

He now lived, for the most Part, retired in the Country, with one Sister, for whom he had a very tender Affection. This Lady was now somewhat past the Age of 30, an Æra, at which, in the Opinion of the malicious, the Title of Old Maid may, with no Impropriety, be assumed. She was of that Species of Women, whom you rather commend for good Qualities than Beauty, and who are generally called by their own Sex, very good Sort of Women—as good a Sort of Woman, Madam, as you would wish to know. Indeed she was so far from regretting Want of Beauty, that she never mention'd that Perfection (if it can be called one) without Contempt; and would often thank God she was not as handsome as Miss such a one, whom perhaps Beauty had led into Errors, which she might have otherwise avoided. Miss *Bridget Allworthy* (for that was the Name of this Lady) very rightly conceived the Charms of Person in a Woman to be no better than Snares for herself, as well as for others, and yet so discreet wa-

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she in her Conduct, that her Prudence was as much on the Guard, as if she had had all the Snares to apprehend which were ever laid for her whole Sex. Indeed, I have observed (tho' it may seem unaccountable to the Reader) that this Guard of Prudence, like the Trained Bands, is always readiest to go on Duty where there is the least Danger. It often basely and cowardly deserts those Paragons for whom the Men are all wishing, sighing, dying, and spreading every Net in their Power; and constantly attends at the Heels of that higher Order of Women, for whom the other Sex have a more distant and awful Respect, and whom, (from Despair, I suppose, of Success) they never venture to attack.

Reader, I think proper, before we proceed any farther together, to acquaint thee, that I intend to digress, through this whole History, as often as I see Occasion: Of which I am myself a better Judge than any pitiful Critic whatever; and here I must desire all those Critics to mind their own Business, and not to intermeddle with Affairs, or Works, which no ways concern them: For, till they produce the Authority by which they are constituted Judges, I shall plead to their Jurisdiction.

B. 5.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

An odd Accident which befel Mr. Allworthy, at his Return home. The decent Bebaticur of Mrs. Deborah Wilkins, with some proper Animadversions on Bastards.

I Have told my Reader, in the preceding Chapter, that Mr. Allworthy inherited a large Fortune; that he had a good Heart, and no Family. Hence, doubtless, it will be concluded by many, that he lived like an honest Man, owed no one a Shilling, took nothing but what was his own, kept a good House, entertained his Neighbours with a hearty Welcome at his Table, and was charitable to the Poor, i. e. to those who had rather beg than work, by giving them the Offals from it; that he dy'd immensely rich, and built an Hospital.

And true it is, that he did many of these Things; but, had he done nothing more, I should have left him to have recorded his own Merit on some fair Free-Stone over the Door of that Hospital. Matters of a much more extraordinary Kind are to be the Subject of this History, or I should grossly mispend my Time in writing so voluminous

a Work ; and you, my sagacious Friend, might, with equal Profit and Pleasure, travel through some Pages, which certain droll Authors have been facetiously pleased to call *The History of England.*

Mr. Allworthy had been absent a full Quarter of a Year in *London*, on some very particular Business, tho' I know not what it was ; but judge of its Importance, by its having detained him so long from home, whence he had not been absent a Month at a Time during the Space of many Years. He came to his House very late in the Evening, and after a short Supper with his Sister, retired much fatigued to his Chamber. Here, having spent some Minutes on his Knees, a Custom which he never broke through on any Account, he was preparing to step into Bed, when, upon opening the Cloaths, to his great Surprise, he beheld an Infant, wrapt up in some coarse Linnen, in a sweet and profound Sleep, between his Sheets. He stood some Time lost in Astonishment at this Sight ; but, as Good-nature was always the Ascendant in his Mind, he soon began to be touched with Sentiments of Compassion for the little Wretch before him. He then rang his Bell, and ordered an elderly Woman Servant to

rise immediately and come to him, and in the mean Time was so eager in contemplating the Beauty of Innocence, appearing in those lively Colours with which Infancy and Sleep always display it, that his Thoughts were too much engaged to reflect that he was in his Shirt, when the Matron came in. She had indeed given her Master sufficient Time to dress himself; for out of Respect to him, and Regard to Decency, she had spent many Minutes in adjusting her Hair at the Looking-glass, notwithstanding all the Hurry in which she had been summoned by the Servant, and tho' her Master, for ought she knew, lay expiring in an Apoplexy, or in some other Fit.

It will not be wondered at, that a Creature, who had so strict a Regard to Decency in her own Person, should be shocked at the least Deviation from it in another. She therefore no sooner opened the Door, and saw her Master standing by the Bed-side in his Shirt, with a Candle in his Hand, than she started back in a most terrible Fright, and might perhaps have swooned away, had he not now recollect ed his being undrest, and put an End to her Terrors, by desiring her to stay without the Door till

till he had thrown some Cloaths over his Back, and was become incapable of shocking the pure Eyes of Mrs. *Deborah Wilkins*, who, tho' in the 52d Year of her Age, vowed she had never beheld a Man without his Coat. Sneerers and prophane Wits may perhaps laugh at her first Fright, yet my graver Reader, when he considers the Time of Night, the Summons from her Bed, and the Situation in which she found her Master, will highly justify and applaud her Conduct; unless the Prudence, which must be supposed to attend Maidens at that Period of Life at which Mrs. *Deborah* had arrived, should a little lessen his Admiration.

When Mrs. *Deborah* returned into the Room, and was acquainted by her Master with the finding the little Infant, her Consternation was rather greater than his had been; nor could she refrain from crying out with great Horror of Accent as well as Look; ‘ My good Sir! what’s to be done?’ Mr. *Allworthy* answered, she must take care of the Child that Evening, and in the Morning he would give Orders to provide it a Nurse. ‘ Yes, Sir,’ says she, ‘ and I hope your Worship will send out your Warrant to take up the Hussy its Mother (for she must be

one

one of the Neighbourhood) and I should
be glad to see her committed to *Bridewell*,
and whipt at the Cart's Tail. Indeed
such wicked Sluts cannot be too severely
punished. I'll warrant 'tis not her first,
by her Impudence in laying it to your
Worship.' 'In laying it to me, *Deberab*',
answered *Allworthy*, 'I can't think she hath
any such Design. I suppose she hath only
taken this Method to provide for her
Child; and truly I am glad she hath not
done worse.' 'I don't know what is worse,'
cries *Deberab*, 'than for such wicked Strum-
pets to lay their Sins at honest Mens
Doors; and though your Worship knows
your own Innocence, yet the World is
censorious; and it hath been many an
honest Man's Hap to pass for the Father
of Children he never begot; and if your
Worship should provide for the Child, it
may make the People the apter to be-
lieve: Besides, why should your Wor-
ship provide for what the Parish is obliged
to maintain? For my own Part, if it was
an honest Man's Child indeed; but for
my own part, it goes against me to touch
these misbegotten Wretches, whom I
don't look upon as my Fellow Creatures.
Faugh, how it stinks! It doth not smell
like a Christian. If I might be so bold to
give

give my Advice, I would have it put in a Basket, and sent out and laid at the Church-Warden's Door. It is a good Night, only a little rainy and windy ; and if it was well wrapt up, and put in a warm Basket, it is two to one but it lives 'till it is found in the Morning. But if it should not, we have discharged our Duty in taking proper care of it ; and it is, perhaps, better for such Creatures to die in a state of Innocence, than to grow up and imitate their Mothers ; for nothing better can be expected of them.'

There were some Strokes in this Speech which, perhaps, would have offended Mr. Allworthy, had he strictly attended to it ; but he had now got one of his Fingers into the Infant's Hand, which by its gentle Pressure, seeming to implore his Assistance, had certainly out-pleaded the Eloquence of Mrs. Deborah, had it been ten times greater than it was. He now gave Mrs. Deborah positive Orders to take the Child to her own Bed, and to call up a Maid-servant to provide it Pap and other things against it waked. He likewise ordered that proper Clothes should be procured for it early in the Morning, and that it should be brought to himself as soon as he was stirring.

Such

Such was the Discernment of Mrs. Wilkins, and such the Respect she bore her Master, under whom she enjoyed a most excellent Place, that her Scruples gave way to his peremptory Commands ; and she took the Child under her Arms, without any apparent Disgust at the Illegality of its Birth ; and declaring it was a sweet little Infant, walked off with it to her own Chamber.

Allworthy here betook himself to those pleasing Slumbers, which a Heart that hungers after Goodness, is apt to enjoy, when thoroughly satisfied. As these are possibly sweeter than what are occasioned by any other hearty Meal, I should take more Pains to display them to the Reader, if I knew any Air to recommend him to for the procuring such an Appetite.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

The Reader's Neck brought into Danger by a Description, his Escape, and the great Condescension of Miss Bridget Allworthy.

THE Gotick Stile of Building could produce nothing nobler than Mr. Allworthy's House. There was an Air of Grandeur in it, that struck you with Awe, and rival'd the Beauties of the best *Grecian* Architecture; and it was as commodious within, as venerable without.

It stood on the South-east Side of a Hill; but nearer the Bottom than the Top of it, so as to be sheltered from the North-east by a Grove of old Oaks, which rose above it in a gradual Ascent of near half a Mile; and yet high enough to enjoy a most charming Prospect of the Valley beneath.

In the midst of the Grove was a fine Lawn sloping down towards the House, near the Summit of which rose a plentiful Spring, gushing out of a Rock covered with Firs, and forming a constant Cascade of about thirty Foot, not carried down a regular Flight of Steps, but tumbling in a natural Fall over the broken and mossy Stones, till it came to the bottom of the Rock; then running off in a pebly Channel, that

with many lesser Falls winded along, till it fell into a Lake at the Foot of the Hill, about a quarter of a Mile below the House on the South Side, and which was seen from every Room in the Front. Out of this Lake, which filled the Center of a beautiful Plain, embellished with Groupes of Beeches and Elms, and fed with Sheep, issued a River, that for several Miles was seen to meander through an amazing Variety of Meadows and Woods, till it emptied itself into the Séa, with a large Arm of which, and an Island beyond it, the Prospect was closed.

On the right of this Valley opened another of less Extent, adorned with several Villages, and terminated by one of the Towers of an old ruined Abbey, grown over with Ivy, and Part of the Front which remained still entire.

The left Hand Scene presented the View of a fine Park, composed of very unequal Ground, and agreeably varied with all the Diversity that Hills, Lawns, Wood and Water, laid out with admirable Taste, but owing less to Art than to Nature, could give. Beyond this the Country gradually rose into a Ridge of wild Mountains, the Tops of which were above the Clouds.

It was now the Middle of May, and the Morning was remarkably serene, when Mr.

Allworthy walked forth on the Terrace, where the Dawn opened every Minute that lovely Prospect we have before described to his Eye. And now having sent forth Streams of Light, which ascended the blue Firmament before him as Harbingers preceding his Pomp, in the full Blaze of his Majesty, rose the Sun; than which one Object alone in this lower Creation could be more glorious; and that Mr. *Allworthy* himself presented; a human Being replete with Benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself most acceptable to his Creator, by doing most good to his Creatures.

Reader, take care, I have unadvisedly led thee to the Top of as high a Hill as Mr. *Allworthy's*, and how to get thee down without breaking thy Neck, I do not well know. However, let us e'en venture to slide down together, for Miss *Bridget* rings her Bell, and Mr. *Allworthy* is summoned to Breakfast, where I must attend, and, if you please, shall be glad of your Company.

The usual Compliments having past between Mr. *Allworthy* and Miss *Bridget*, and the Tea being poured out, he summoned Mrs. *Wilkins*, and told his Sister he had a Present for her; for which she thanked him, imagining, I suppose, it had been a Gown or some Ornament for her Person. Indeed, he very often made her such Presents, and

she in Complacence to him spent much time in adorning herself... I say, in Complacence to him, because she always express the greatest Contempt for Dress, and for those Ladies who made it their Study.

But if such was her Expectation, how was she disappointed, when Mrs. *Wilkins*, according to the Order she had receiv'd from her Master, produced the little Infant. Great Surprises, as hath been observed, are apt to be silent, and so was Miss *Bridget*, 'till her Brother began and told her the whole Story, which as the Reader knows already, we shall not repeat.

Miss *Bridget* had always express so great a regard for what the Ladies are pleased to call Virtue, and had herself mantained such a Severity of Character, that it was expected, especially by *Wilkins*, that she would have vented much Bitterness on this Occasion, and would have voted for sending the Child, as a kind of noxious Animal, immediately out of the House; but on the contrary, she rather took the good-natur'd side of the question, intimated some Compassion for the helpless little Creature, and commended her Brother's Charity in what he had done.

Perhaps the Reader may account for this Behaviour from her Condescension to Mr. *Allworthy*, when we have informed him,

that

that the good Man had ended his Narrative with owning a Resolution to take care of the Child, and to breed him up as his own; for, to acknowledge the Truth, she was always ready to oblige her Brother, and very seldom, if ever, contradicted his Sentiments; she would indeed sometimes make a few Observations, as, that Men were headstrong and must have their own way, and would wish she had been blest with an independent Fortune; but these were always vented in a low Voice, and at the most amounted only to what is called Muttering.

However, what she withheld from the Infant, she bestowed with the utmost Profuseness on the poor unknown Mother, whom she called an impudent Slut, a wanton Hussy, an audacious Harlot, a wicked Jade, a vile Strumpet, with every other Appellation with which the Tongue of Virtue never fails to lash those who bring a Disgrace on the Sex.

A Consultation was now entered into, how to proceed in order to discover the Mother. A Scrutiny was first made into the Characters of the female Servants of the House, who were all acquitted by Mrs. Wilkins, and with apparent Merit; for she had collected

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lected them herself, and perhaps it would
be difficult to find such another Set of Scare-
crows.

The next Step was to examine among
the Inhabitants of the Parish; and this was
referred to Mrs. Wilkins, who was to en-
quire with all imaginable Diligence, and to
make her Report in the Afternoon.

Matters being thus settled, Mr. Allwor-
thy withdrew to his Study, as was his Cus-
tom, and left the Child to his Sister, who,
at his Desire, had undertaken the Care
of it.

C H A P. V.

Containing a few common Matters, with a
very uncommon Observation upon them.

WHEN her Master was departed, Mrs.
Deborah stood silent, expecting her
Cue from Miss Bridget; for as to what had
past before her Master, the prudent House-
keeper by no means relied upon it, as she
had often known the Sentiments of the
Lady in her Brother's Absence to differ
greatly from those which she had expressed in
his

his Presence. Miss *Bridget* did not, however, suffer her to continue long in this doubtful Situation ; for having looked some time earnestly at the Child, as it lay asleep in the Lap of Mrs. *Deborah*, the good Lady could not forbear giving it a hearty Kiss, at the same time declaring herself wonderfully pleased with its Beauty and Innocence. Mrs. *Deborah* no sooner observed this, than she fell to squeezing and kissing with as great Raptures as sometimes inspire the sage Dame of forty and five towards a youthful and vigorous Bridegroom, crying out in a shrill Voice, ‘ O the dear little Creature, the dear, sweet, pretty Creature ! well, I vow, it is as fine a Boy as ever was seen ! ’

These Exclamations continued 'till they were interrupted by the Lady, who now proceeded to execute the Commission given her by her Brother, and gave Orders for providing all Necessaries for the Child, appointing a very good Room in the House for his Nursery. Her Orders were indeed so liberal, that had it been a Child of her own, she could not have exceeded them ; but lest the virtuous Reader may condemn her for shewing too great Regard to a base-born Infant, to which all

Charity is condemned by Law as irreligious, we think proper to observe, that she concluded the whole with saying, ‘ Since it was her Brother’s Will to adopt the little Brat, she supposed little Master must be treated with great Tenderness ; for her part, she could not help thinking it was an Encouragement to Vice ; but that she knew too much of the Obstiny of Mankind to oppose any of their ridiculous Humours.’

With Reflections of this nature, she usually, as hath been hinted, accompany’d every Act of Compliance with her Brother’s Inclinations ; and surely nothing could more contribute to heighten the Merit of this Compliance, than a Declaration that she knew at the same time the Folly and Unreasonableness of those Inclinations to which she submitted. Tacit Obedience implies no Force upon the Will, and consequently may be easily, and without any Pains preserved ; but when a Wife, a Child, a Relation, or a Friend, performs what we desire, with Grumbling, and Reluctance, with Expressions of Dislike and Dissatisfaction, the manifest Difficulty which they undergo, must greatly enhance the Obligation.

As this is one of those deep Observations which very few Readers can be supposed capable of making themselves, I have thought proper to lend them my Assistance; but this is a Favour rarely to be expected in the Course of my Work. Indeed I shall seldom or never so indulge him, unless in such Instances as this, where nothing but the Inspiration with which we Writers are gifted, can possibly enable any one to make the Discovery.

C H A P. VI.

Mrs. Deborah is introduced into the Parish, with a Simile. A short Account of Jenny Jones, with the Difficulties and Discouragements which may attend young Women in the Pursuit of Learning.

MRS. Deborah, having disposed of the Child according to the Will of her Master, now prepared to visit those Habitations which were supposed to conceal its Mother.

Not otherwise than when a Kite, tremendous Bird, is beheld by the feathered Generation soaring aloft, and hovering over their Heads,

Heads, the amorous Dove, and every innocent little Bird spread wide the Alarm, and fly trembling to their Hiding-places. He proudly beats the Air, conscious of his Dignity, and meditates intended Mischief.

So when the Approach of Mrs. *Deborah* was proclaimed through the Street, all the Inhabitants ran trembling into their Houses, each Matron dreading lest the Visit should fall to her Lot. She with stately Steps proudly advances over the Field, aloft she bears her tow'ring Head, filled with Conceit of her own Pre-eminence, and Schemes to effect her intended Discovery.

The sagacious Reader will not, from this Simile, imagine these poor People had any Apprehension of the Design with which Mrs. *Wilkins* was now coming towards them; but as the great Beauty of the Simile may possibly sleep these hundred Years, till some future Commentator shall take this Work in hand, I think proper to lend the Reader a little Assistance in this Place.

It is my Intention therefore to signify, that as it is the Nature of a Kite to devour little Birds, so is it the Nature of such Persons as Mrs. *Wilkins*, to insult and tyrannize

nize over little People. This being indeed the Means which they use to recompense to themselves their extreme Servility and Condescension to their Superiors ; for nothing can be more reasonable, than that Slaves and Flatterers should exact the same Taxes on all below them, which they themselves pay to all above them.

Whichever Mrs. *Deborah* had had Occasion to exert any extraordinary Condescension to Mrs. *Bridget*, and by that means had a little fower'd her natural Disposition, it was usual with her to walk forth among these People, in order to refine her Temper, by venting, and, as it were, purging off all ill-Humours ; on which Account, she was by no means a welcome Visitant ; to say the Truth, she was universally hated and dreaded by them all.

On her Arrival in this Place, she went immediately to the Habitation of an elderly Matron ; to whom, as this Matron had the good Fortune to resemble herself in the Comeliness of her Person, as well as in her Age, she had generally been more favourable than to any of the rest. To this Woman she imparted what had happened, and the Design upon which she was come thither

ther that Morning. These two began presently to scrutinize the Characters of the several young Girls, who lived in any of those Houses, and at last fixed their strongest Suspicion on one *Jenny Jones*, who they both agreed was the likeliest Person to have committed this Fact.

This *Jenny Jones* was no very comely Girl, either in her Face or Person; but Nature had somewhat compensated the Want of Beauty with what is generally more esteemed by those Ladies, whose Judgment is arrived at Years of perfect Maturity; for she had given her a very uncommon Share of Understanding. This Gift *Jenny* had a good deal improved by Erudition. She had lived several Years a Servant with a Schoolmaster, who discovering a great Quickness of Parts in the Girl, and an extraordinary Desire of learning, (for every leisure Hour she was always found reading in the Books of the Scholars); had the Good-nature, or Folly, which the Reader pleases to call it, to instruct her so far, that she obtained a very competent Skill in the Latin Language, and was perhaps as good a Scholar as most of the young Men of Quality of the Age. This Advantage, however, like most others, of an extraordi-

nary Kind, was attended with some small Inconveniences : For as it is not to be wondered at, that a young Woman so well accomplished should have little Relish for the Society of those whom Fortune had made her Equals, but whom Education had rendered so much her Inferiors ; so is it Matter of no greater Astonishment, that this Superiority in *Jenny*, together with that Behaviour which is its certain Consequence, should produce among the others some little Envy and Ill-will towards her ; and these had perhaps secretly burnt in the Bosoms of her Neighbours, ever since her Return from her Service.

Their Envy did hot however display itself openly, till poor *Jenny*, to the Surprize of every Body, and to the Vexation of all the young Women in these Parts, had publickly shone forth on a *Sunday* in a new Silk Gown, with a laced Cap, and other proper Appendages to these.

The Flame, which had before lain in Embrio, now burst forth. *Jenny* had, by her Learning, encreased her own Pride, which none of her Neighbours were kind enough to feed with the Honour she seemed to demand ; and now, instead of Respect

and Adoration, she gained nothing but Hatred and Abuse, by her Finery. The whole Parish declared she could not come honestly by such Things; and Parents, instead of wishing their Daughters the same, felicitated themselves that their Children had them not.

Hence perhaps it was, that the good Woman first mentioned the Name of this poor Girl to Mrs. Wilkins; but there was another Circumstance that confirmed the latter in her Suspicion: For Jenny had lately been often at Mr. Allworthy's House. She had officiated as Nurse to Miss Bridget, in a violent Fit of Illness, and had sat up many Nights with that Lady; besides which, she had been seen there the very Day before Mr. Allworthy's Return, by Mrs. Wilkins herself, tho' that sagacious Person had not at first conceived any Suspicion of her on that Account: For, as she herself said,

• She had always esteemed Jenny as a very
• sober Girl, (tho' indeed she knew very
• little of her) and had rather suspected some
• of those wanton Trollops, who gave
• themselves Airs because, forsooth, they
• thought themselves handsome.'

Jenny

Jenny was now summoned to appear in Person before Mrs. *Deborah*, which she immediately did. When Mrs. *Deborah*, putting on the Gravity of a Judge, with somewhat more than his Austerity, began an Oration with the Words ‘ You audacious Strumpet,’ in which she proceeded rather to pass Sentence on the Prisoner, than to accuse her.

Tho’ Mrs. *Deborah* was fully satisfied of the Guilt of Jenny, from the Reasons above shewn, it is possible Mr. *Allworthy* might have required some stronger Evidence to have convicted her; but she saved her Accusers any such Trouble, by freely confessing the whole Fact with which she was charged.

This Confession, tho’ delivered rather in Terms of Contrition, as it appeared, did not at all mollify Mrs. *Deborah*, who now pronounced a second Judgment against her, in more opprobrious Language than before; nor had it any better Success with the Eye-standers, who were now grown very numerous. Many of them cried out, ‘ They thought what Madam’s Silk Gown would end in;’ others spoke sarcastically of her Learning. Not a single Female was present,

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present, but found some Means of expressing her Abhorrence of poor *Jenny*; who bore all very patiently, except the Malice of one Woman, who reflected upon her Person, and, tossing up her Nose, said, ‘ The Man must have a good Stomach, who would give Silk Gowns for such Sort of ‘ Trumpery.’ *Jenny* replied to this, with a Bitterness which might have surprized a judicious Person, who had observed the Tranquility with which she bore all the Affronts to her Chastity; but her Patience was perhaps tired out: For this is a Virtue which is very apt to be fatigued by Exercise.

Mrs. *Deborah*, having succeeded beyond her Hopes in her Enquiry, returned with much Triumph, and at the appointed Hour made a faithful Report to Mr. *Allworthy*, who was much surprized at the Relation; for he had heard of the extraordinary Parts and Improvements of this Girl, whom he intended to have given in Marriage, together with a small Living, to a neighbouring Curate. His Concern therefore on this Occasion, was at least equal to the Satisfaction which appeared in Mrs. *Deborah*, and to many Readers may seem much more reasonable.

Mrs. *Bridget* blessed herself, and said, ‘ For her Part, she should never hereafter enter-

entertain a good Opinion of any Woman : For Jenny had likewise had the Happiness of being much in her good Graces.

The prudent Housekeeper was again dispatched to bring the unhappy Culprit before Mr. Allworthy, in order, not, as it was hoped by some and expected by all, to be sent to the House of Correction ; but to receive wholesome Admonition and Reproof, which those who relish that kind of instructive Writing, may peruse in the next Chapter.

C H A P. VII.

Containing such grave Matter, that the Reader cannot laugh once through the whole Chapter, unless peradventure he should laugh at the Author.

WHEN Jenny appeared, Mr. Allworthy took her into his Study, and spoke to her as follows :

You know, Child, it is in my Power, as a Magistrate, to punish you very rigorously for what you have done ; and you will perhaps be the more apt to fear

C 5 should

• should execute that Power, because you
• have, in a manner, laid your Sins at my
• Door.

• But perhaps this is one Reason which
• hath determined me to act in a milder
• Manner with you: For, as no private
• Resentment should ever influence a Ma-
• gistrate, I will be so far from considering
• your having deposited the Infant in my
• House, as an Aggravation of your Of-
• fence, that I will suppose, in your Fa-
• vor, this to have proceeded from a na-
• tural Affection to your Child; since you
• might have some Hopes to see it thus
• better provided for, than was in the Power
• of yourself, or its wicked Father, to pro-
• vide for it. I should indeed have been
• highly offended with you, had you ex-
• posed the little Wretch in the Manner of
• some inhuman Mothers, who seem no
• less to have abandoned their Humanity,
• than to have parted with their Chastity.
• It is the other Part of your Offence there-
• fore upon which I intend to admonish
• you, I mean the Violation of your Cha-
• stity. A Crime, however lightly it may
• be treated by debauched Persons, very
• heinous in itself, and very dreadful in its
• Consequences.

The heinous Nature of this Offence must be sufficiently apparent to every Christian, inasmuch as it is committed in Defiance of the Laws of our Religion, and of the express Commands of him who founded that Religion.

And here its Consequences may well be argued to be dreadful; for what can be more so, than to incur the divine Displeasure, by the Breach of the divine Commands, and that in an Instance, against which the highest Vengeance is specifically denounced.

But these Things, tho' too little, I am afraid, regarded, are so plain, that Mankind, however they may want to be reminded, can never need Information on this Head. A Hint therefore to awaken your Sense of this Matter shall suffice; for it would inspire you with Repentance, and not drive you to Desperation.

There are other Consequences, not indeed so dreadful or replete with Horror as this; and yet such, as if attentively considered, must, one would think, deter all, of your Sex at least, from the Commission of this Crime.

‘ For by it you are rendered infamous,
• and driven, like Lepers of old, out of
• Society ; at least from the Society of all
• but wicked and reprobate Persons ; for no
• others will associate with you.

‘ If you have Fortunes, you are hereby
• rendered incapable of enjoying them ; if
• you have none, you are disabled from ac-
• quiring any, nay almost of procuring
• your Sustenance ; for no Persons of Cha-
• racter will receive you into their Houses.
• Thus you are often driven by Necessity
• itself into a State of Shame and Misery,
• which unavoidably ends in the Destruction
• of both Body and Soul.

‘ Can any Pleasure compensate these
• Evils ? Can any Temptation have So-
• phistry and Delusion strong enough to
• persuade you to so simple a Bargain ? Or
• can any carnal Appetite so overpower
• your Reason, or so totally lay it asleep, as
• to prevent your flying with Affright and
• Terror from a Crime which carries such
• Punishment always with it ?

‘ How base and mean must that Wo-
• man be, how void of that Dignity of
• Mind,

' Mind, and decent Pride, without which
 ' we are not worthy the Name of human
 ' Creatures, who can bear to level herself
 ' with the lowest Animal, and to sacrifice
 ' all that is great and noble in her, all her
 ' Heavenly Part, to an Appetite which she
 ' hath in common with the vilest Branch of
 ' the Creation ! For no Woman, sure, will
 ' plead the Passion of Love for an Excuse.
 ' This would be to own herself the mere
 ' Tool and Bubble of the Man. Love,
 ' however barbarously we may corrupt and
 ' pervert its Meaning, as it is a laudable,
 ' is a rational Passion, and can never be vi-
 ' olent, but when reciprocal ; for though
 ' the Scripture bids us love our Enemies,
 ' it means not with that fervent Love,
 ' which we naturally bear towards our
 ' Friends ; much less that we should sacri-
 ' fice to them our Lives, and what ought
 ' to be dearer to us, our Innocence.
 ' Now in what Light, but in that of an E-
 ' nemy, can a reasonable Woman regard
 ' the Man, who solicits her to entail on
 ' herself, all the Misery I have above de-
 ' scribed, and who would purchase to him-
 ' self a short, trivial, contemptible Plea-
 ' sure, so greatly at her Expence ! For by the
 ' Laws of Custom the whole Shame, with
 ' all its dreadful Consequences, falls entire-
 ' ly upon her. Can Love, which always
 seeks

• seeks the Good of its Object, attempt to
 • betray a Woman into a Bargain, where
 • she is so greatly to be the Loser ? If such
 • Corrupter, therefore, should have the
 • Impudence to pretend a real Affection
 • for her, ought not the Woman to regard
 • him, not only as an Enemy, but as the
 • worst of all Enemies ; a false, designing,
 • treacherous, pretended Friend, who in-
 • tends not only to debauch her Body, but
 • her Understanding at the same Time ?

Here Jenny expressing great Concern, *All-worthy* paused a Moment, and then proceeded : ' I have talked thus to you, Child, not to
 • insult you for what is past, and irrevoca-
 • ble, but to caution and strengthen you
 • for the future. Nor should I have taken
 • this Trouble, but from some Opinion of
 • your good Sense, notwithstanding the
 • dreadful Slip you have made ; and from
 • some Hopes of your hearty Repentance,
 • which are founded on the Openness and
 • Sincerity of your Confession. If these
 • do not deceive me, I will take care to
 • convey you from this Scene of your
 • Shame, where you shall, by being un-
 • known, avoid the Punishment which, as
 • I have said, is allotted to your Crime in
 • this World ; and I hope by Repentance,
 • you will avoid the much heavier Sentence
 • denounced

‘ denounced against it in the other. Be a
 ‘ good Girl the rest of your Days, and
 ‘ Want shall be no Motive to your going
 ‘ astray : And believe me, there is more
 ‘ Pleasure, even in this World, in an in-
 ‘ nocent and virtuous Life, than in one de-
 ‘ bauched and vicious.

‘ As to your Child, let no Thoughts con-
 ‘ cerning it, molest you ; I will provide for
 ‘ it in a better manner than you can ever
 ‘ hope. And now nothing remains, but
 ‘ that you inform me who was the wicked
 ‘ Man that seduced you ; for my An-
 ‘ ger against him will be much greater than
 ‘ you have experienced on this Occasion.’

Jenny now first lifted her Eyes from the
 Ground, and with a modest Look, and de-
 cent Voice, thus began :

‘ To know you, Sir, and not love your
 ‘ Goodness, would be an Argument of to-
 ‘ tal want of Sense or Goodness in any one.
 ‘ In me it would amount to the highest
 ‘ Ingratitude, not to feel, in the most sen-
 ‘ sible manner, the great Degree of Good-
 ‘ ness you have been pleased to exert on
 ‘ this Occasion. As to my Concern for
 ‘ what is past, I know you will spare my
 ‘ Blushes the Repetition. My future Con-
 ‘ duct

duct will much better declare my Sentiments, than any Professions I can now make. I beg leave to assure you, Sir, that I take your Advice much kinder, than your generous Offer with which you concluded it. For as you are pleased to say, Sir, it is an Instance of your Opinion of my Understanding — Here her Tears flowing apace, she stopped a few Moments, and then proceeded thus, ‘Indeed, Sir, your Kindness overcomes me ; but I will endeavour to deserve this good Opinion ; for if I have the Understanding you are so kindly pleased to allow me, such Advice cannot be thrown away upon me. I thank you, Sir, heartily, for your intended Kindness to my poor helpless Child ; he is innocent, and I hope will live to be grateful for all the Favours you shall shew him. But now, Sir, I must on my Knees intreat you, not to persist in asking me to declare the Father of my Infant. I promise you faithfully, you shall one Day know ; but I am under the most solemn Ties and Engagements of Honour, as well as the most religious Vows and Protestations, to conceal his Name at this Time. And I know you too well to think you would desire I should sacrifice either my Honour, or my Religion.’

•Mr. All-

Mr. Allworthy, whom the least Mention of these sacred Words was sufficient to stagger, hesitated a Moment before he replied, and then told her she had done wrong to enter into such Engagements to a Villain; but since she had, he could not insist on her breaking them. He said, it was not from a Motive of vain Curiosity he had enquired, but in order to punish the Fellow; at least, that he might not ignorantly confer Favours on the Undeserving.

As to these Points, Jenny satisfied him by the most solemn Assurances, that the Man was entirely out of his Reach, and was neither subject to his Power, nor in any probability of becoming an Object of his Goodness.

The Ingenuity of this Behaviour, had gained Jenny so much Credit with this worthy Man, that he easily believed what she told him: For as she had disdained to excuse herself by a Lie, and had hazarded his farther Displeasure in her present Situation, rather than she would forfeit her Honour, or Integrity, by betraying another, he had but little Apprehension that she would be guilty of Falshood towards himself.

He therefore dismissed her with Assurances, that he would very soon remove her out

out of the Reach of that Obloquy she had incurred, concluding with some additional Documents, in which he recommended Repentance, saying, “ Consider, Child, there is one still to reconcile yourself to, whose Favour is of much greater Importance to you than mine.”

C H A P. VIII.

A Dialogue between Mesdames Bridget, and Deborah ; containing more Amusement, but less Instruction than the former.

WHEN Mr. Allworthy had retired to his Study with Jenny Jones, as hath been seen, Mrs. Bridget, with the good House-keeper, had betaken themselves to a Post next adjoining to the said Study ; whence, through the Conveyance of a Key-hole, they sucked in at their Ears the instructive Lecture delivered by Mr. Allworthy, together with the Answers of Jenny, and indeed every other Particular which passed in the last Chapter.

This Hole in her Brother’s Study Door, was indeed as well known to Mrs. Bridget, and had been as frequently applied to by her, as the famous Hole in the Wall was

by

by *Thisbe* of old. This served to many good Purposes. For by such Means Mrs. *Eridget* became often acquainted with her Brother's Inclinations, without giving him the Trouble of repeating them to her. It is true, some Inconveniences attended this Intercourse, and she had sometimes Reason to cry out with *Thisbe*, in *Shakespear*, 'O wicked, wicked Wall!' For as Mr. *Allworthy* was a Justice of Peace, certain Things occurred in Examinations concerning Ba- stards, and such like, which are apt to give great Offence to the chaste Ears of Virgins, especially when they approach the Age of forty, as was the Case of Mrs. *Bridget*. How- ever, she had, on such Occasions, the Ad- vantage of concealing her Blushes from the Eyes of Men, and *De non apparentibus, et non existentibus eadem est ratio.* In *En- glish*: 'When a Woman is not seen to blush, she doth not blush at all.'

Both the good Women kept strict Silence during the whole Scene between Mr. *Allwor- thy* and the Girl; but as soon as it was ended, and that Gentleman was out of hearing; Mrs. *Deborah* could not help exclaiming a- gainst the Clemency of her Master, and espe- cially against his suffering her to conceal the Father of the Child, which she swore she would have out of her before the Sun set.

At

At these Words Mrs. *Bridget* discomposed her Features with a Smile ; (a Thing very unusual to her.) Not that I would have my Reader imagine, that this was one of those wanton Smiles, which *Homer* would have you conceive came from *Venus*, when he calls her the laughter-loving Goddess ; nor was it one of those Smiles, which Lady *Seraphina* shoots from the Stage-Box, and which *Venus* would quit her Immortality to be able to equal. No, this was rather one of those Smiles, which might be supposed to have come from the dimpled Cheeks of the august *Tysiphone*, or from one of the Misses her Sisters.

With such a Smile then, and with a Voice, sweet as the Evening Breeze of *Boreas* in the pleasant Month of *November*, Mrs. *Bridget* gently reproved the Curiosity of Mrs. *Deborah*, a Vice with which it seems the latter was too much tainted, and which the former inveighed against with great Bitterness, adding, ‘ that among all her Faults, ‘ she thanked Heaven, her Enemies could ‘ not accuse her of prying into the Affairs ‘ of other People.’

She then proceeded to commend the Honour and Spirit with which *Jenny* had acted.

She said, she could not help agreeing with her Brother, that there was some Merit in the Sincerity of her Confession, and in her Integrity to her Lover. That she had always thought her a very good Girl, and doubted not but she had been seduced by some Rascal, who had been infinitely more to blame than herself, and very probably had prevailed with her by a Promise of Marriage, or some other treacherous Proceeding.

This Behaviour of Mrs. *Bridget* greatly surprized Mrs. *Deborah*; for this well-bred Woman seldom opened her Lips either to her Master or his Sister, 'till she had first sounded their Inclinations, with which her Sentiments were always strictly consonant. Here, however, she thought she might have launched forth with Safety; and the sagacious Reader will not perhaps accuse her of want of sufficient Forecast in so doing, but will rather admire with what wonderful Celerity she tacked about, when she found herself steering a wrong Course.

' Nay, Madam,' said this able Woman, and truly great Politician, ' I must own I cannot help admiring the Girl's Spirit, as well as your Ladyship. And, as your

Ladyship

• Ladyship says, if she was deceived by
• some wicked Man, the poor Wretch is to
• be pitied. And to be sure, as your La-
• dyship says, the Girl hath always appeared
• like a good, honest, plain Girl, and not
• vain of her Face, forsooth, as some wan-
• ton Husseys in the Neighbourhood are.

‘ You say true, *Deborah*, said Mrs. Brid-
• get, if the Girl had been one of those vain
• Trollops, of which we have too many in
• the Parish, I should have condemned my
• Brother for his Lenity towards her. I saw
• two Farmers Daughters at Church, the
• other Day, with bare Necks. I protest they
• shock’d me. If Wenches will hang out
• Lures for Fellows, it is no matter what
• they suffer. I detest such Creatures ; and it
• would be much better for them, that their
• Faces had been seamed with the Small-
• Pox ; but I must confess, I never saw any
• of this wanton Behaviour in poor *Jenny* ;
• some artful Villain, I am convinced, hath
• betrayed, nay perhaps forc’d her ; and I
• pity the poor Wretch with all my Heart.’

Mrs. *Deborah* approved all these Senti-
ments, and the Dialogue concluded with a
general and bitter Invective against Beauty,
and with many compassionate Considera-
tion.

tions for all honest, plain Girls, who are deluded by the wicked Arts of deceitful Men.

C H A P. IX.

Containing Matters which will surprize the Reader.

JENNY returned home well pleased with the Reception she had met with from Mr. Allworthy, whose Indulgence to her she industriously made public; partly perhaps as a Sacrifice to her own Pride, and partly from the more prudent Motive of reconciling her Neighbours to her, and silencing their Clamours.

But though this latter View, if she indeed had it, may appear reasonable enough, yet the Event did not answer her Expectation; for when she was convened before the Justice, and it was universally apprehended, that the House of Correction would have been her Fate; tho' some of the young Women cry'd out, 'it was good enough for her,' and diverted themselves with the Thoughts of her beating Hemp in a Silk Gown; yet there were many others who began

began to pity her Condition : But when it was known in what manner Mr. *Allworthy* had behaved, the Tide turned against her. One said, ‘ I’ll assure you, Madam hath had ‘ good Luck.’ A second cry’d, ‘ See what ‘ it is to be a Favorite.’ A third, ‘ Ay, ‘ this comes of her Learning.’ Every Person made some malicious Comment or other, on the Occasion ; and reflected on the Partiality of the Justice.

The Behaviour of these People, may appear impolitic, and ungrateful to the Reader, who considers the Power, and the Benevolence of Mr. *Allworthy* : But as to his Power, he never used it ; and as to his Benevolence, he exerted so much, that he had thereby disobliged all his Neighbours : For it is a Secret well known to great Men, that by conferring an Obligation, they do not always procure a Friend, but are certain of creating many Enemies.

Jenny was, however, by the Care and Goodness of Mr. *Allworthy*, soon removed out of the Reach of Reproach ; when Malice, being no longer able to vent its Rage on her, began to seek another Object of its Bitterness, and this was no less than Mr. *Allworthy* himself ; for a Whisper soon went abroad,

abroad, that he himself was the Father of the foundling Child.

This Supposition so well reconciled his Conduct to the general Opinion, that it met with universal Assent ; and the Outcry against his Lenity soon began to take another Turn, and was changed into an Invective against his Cruelty to the poor Girl. Very grave and good Women exclaimed against Men who begot Children and then disowned them. Nor were there wanting some, who, after the Departure of *Jenny*, insinuated, that she was spirited away with a Design too black to be mentioned, and who gave frequent Hints, that a legal Inquiry ought to be made into the whole Matter, and that some People should be forced to produce the Girl.

These Calumnies might have probably produced ill Consequences (at the least might have occasioned some Trouble,) to a Person of a more doubtful and suspicious Character than Mr. *Allworthy* was blessed with ; but in his Case they had no such Effect ; and, being heartily despised by him, they served only to afford an innocent Amusement to the good Gossips of the Neighbourhood.

But as we cannot possibly divine what Complexion our Reader may be of, and as it will be some Time before he will hear any more of *Jenny*, we think proper to give him a very early Intimation, that Mr. *All-worthy* was, and will hereafter appear to be, absolutely innocent of any criminal Intention whatever. He had indeed committed no other than an Error in Politics, by tempering Justice with Mercy, and by refusing to gratify the good-natured Disposition of the Mob,* with an Object for their Compassion to work on in the Person of poor *Jenny*, whom, in order to pity, they desired to have seen sacrificed to Ruin and Infamy by a shameful Correction in *Bridewel*.

So far from complying with this their Inclination, by which all Hopes of Reformation would have been abolished, and even the Gate shut against her, if her own Inclinations should ever hereafter lead her to chuse the Road of Virtue, Mr. *All-worthy* rather chose to encourage the Girl to return thither by the only possible Means;

* Whenever this Word occurs in our Writings, it intends Persons without Virtue, or Sense, in all Stations, and many of the highest Rank are often meant by it.

for too true I am afraid it is, that many Women have become abandoned, and have sunk to the last Degree of Vice by being unable to retrieve the first Slip. This will be, I am afraid, always the Case while they remain among their former Acquaintance ; it was therefore wisely done by Mr. Allworthy, to remove Jenny to a Place where she might enjoy the Pleasure of Reputation, after having tasted the ill Consequences of losing it.

To this Place therefore, wherever it was, we will wish her a good Journey, and for the present take leave of her, and of the little Foundling her Child, having Matters of much higher Importance to communicate to the Reader.

C H A P. X.

The Hospitality of Allworthy ; with a short Sketch of the Characters of two Brothers, a Doctor, and a Captain, who were entertained by that Gentleman.

NEITHER Mr. Allworthy's House, nor his Heart, were shut against any Part of Mankind, but they were both

more particularly open to Men of Merit. To say the Truth, this was the only House in the Kingdom where you was sure to gain a Dinner by deserving it.

Above all others, Men of Genius and Learning shared the principal Place in his Favour ; and in these he had much Discernment : For though he had missed the Advantage of a learned Education, yet being blest with vast natural Abilities, he had so well profited by a vigorous, though late Application to Letters, and by much Conversation with Men of Eminence in this Way, that he was himself a very competent Judge in most Kinds of Literature.

It is no Wonder that in an Age when this Kind of Merit is so little in Fashion, and so slenderly provided for, ~~that~~ Persons possessed of it should very eagerly flock to a Place where they were sure of being received with great Complaisance ; indeed where they might enjoy almost the same Advantages of a liberal Fortune as if they were entitled to it in their own Right ; for Mr. *Allworship* was not one of those generous Persons, who are ready most bountifully to bestow Meat, Drink, and Lodging on Men of Wit and Learning, for which they expect no other

Return

Return but Entertainment, Instruction, Flattery, and Subserviency ; in a Word, that such Persons should be enrolled in the Number of Domestics, without wearing their Master's Cloaths, or receiving Wages.

On the contrary, every Person in this House was perfect Master of his own Time : and as he might at his Pleasure satisfy all his Appetites within the Restrictions only of Law, Virtue and Religion ; so he might, if his Health required, or his Inclination prompted him to Temperance, or even to Abstinence, absent himself from any Meals, or retire from them whenever he was so disposed, without even a Solicitation to the contrary : For indeed, such Solicitations from Superiors always favour very strongly of Commands. But all here were free from such Impertinence, not only those, whose Company is in all other Places esteemed a Favour from their Equality of Fortune, but even those whose indigent Circumstances make such an eleemosynary Abode convenient to them, and who are therefore less welcome to a great Man's Table because they stand in need of it.

Among others of this Kind was Dr. Blifil, a Gentleman who had the Misfor-

tune of losing the Advantage of great Talents by the Obsinacy of a Father, who would breed him to a Profession he disliked. In Cbedience to this Obsinacy the Doctor had in his Ycuth been obliged to study Physick, or rather to say he studied it ; for in reality Books of this Kind were almost the only ones with which he was unacquainted ; and unfortunately for him, the Doctor was Master of almost every other Science but that by which he was to get his Bread ; the Consequence of which was, that the Doctor at the Age of Forty had no Bread to eat.

Such a Person as this was certain to find a Welcome at Mr. *Allworthy's* Table, to whom Misfortunes were ever a Recommendation when they were derived from the Folly or Villany of others, and not of the unfortunate Person himself. Besides this negative Merit, the Doctor had one positive Recommendation. This was a great Appearance of Religion. Whether his Religion was real, or consisted only in Appearance, I shall not presume to say, as I am not possessed of any Touch-stone, which can distinguish the true from the false.

If this Part of his Character pleased Mr. *Allworthy*, it delighted Miss *Bridget*. She engaged

engaged him in many religious Controversies ; on which Occasions she constantly expressed great Satisfaction in the Doctor's Knowledge, and not much less in the Compliments which he frequently bestowed on her own. To say the Truth, she had read much *English Divinity*, and had puzzled more than one of the neighbouring Curates. Indeed her Conversation was so pure, her Looks so sage, and her whole Deportment so grave and solemn, that she seemed to deserve the Name of Saint equally with her Name-sake, or with any other Female in the *Roman Kalendar.*

As Sympathies of all Kinds are apt to beget Love, so Experience teaches us that none have a more direct Tendency this Way than those of a religious Kind between Persons of different Sexes. The Doctor found himself so agreeable to Miss *Bridget*, that he now began to lament an unfortunate Accident which had happened to him about ten Years before ; namely, his Marriage with another Woman, who was not only still alive, but what was worse, known to be so by Mr. *Allworthy*. This was a fatal Bar to that Happiness which he otherwise saw sufficient Probability of obtaining with this young Lady ; for as to criminal Indulgencies, he

certainly never thought of them. This was owing either to his Religion, as is most probable, or to the Purity of his Passion, which was fixed on those Things, which Matrimony only, and not criminal Correspondence, could put him in Possession of, or could give him any Title to.

He had not long ruminated on these Matters before it occurred to his Memory that he had a Brother who was under no such unhappy Incapacity. This Brother he made no doubt would succeed ; for he discerned, as he thought, an Inclination to Marriage in the Lady ; and the Reader perhaps, when he hears the Brother's Qualifications, will not blame the Confidence which he entertained of his Success.

This Gentleman was about 35 Years of Age. He was of a middle Size, and what is called well built. He had a Scar on his Forehead, which did not so much injure his Beauty, as it denoted his Valour (for he was a half-pay Officer.) He had good Teeth, and something affable, when he pleased, in his Smile ; though naturally his Countenance, as well as his Air and Voice, had much of Roughness in it, yet he could at any Time deposite this, and appear all Gentleness

Gentleness and good Humour. He was not ungenteel, nor entirely void of Wit, and in his Youth had abounded in Spriteliness, which, though he had lately put on a more serious Character, he could, when he pleased, resume.

He had, as well as the Doctor, an Academic Education ; for his Father had, with the same Paternal Authority we have mentioned before, decreed him for holy Orders ; but as the old Gentleman died before he was ordained, he chose the Church ~~Military~~, and preferred the King's Commission to the Bishop's.

He had purchased the Post of Lieutenant of Dragoons, and afterwards came to be a Captain ; but having quarrelled with his Colonel, was by his Interest obliged to sell ; from which Time he had entirely rusticated himself, had betaken himself to studying the Scriptures, and was not a little suspected of an Inclination to *Methodism*.

It seemed therefore not unlikely that such a Person should succeed with a Lady of so Saint-like a Disposition, and whose Inclinations were no otherwise engaged than to the married State in general ; but why the

58. *The History of Book. I;*
Doctor, who certainly had no great Friendship for his Brother, shculd for his Sake think of making so ill a Return to the Hospitality of *Allworthy*, is a Matter not so easy to be accounted for.

Is it that some Natures delight in Evil, as others are thought to delight in Virtue? Or is there a Pleasure in being accessary to a Theft when we cannot commit it ourselves? Or Lastly, (which Experience seems to make probable) have we a Satisfaction in aggrandizing our Families, even tho' we have not the least Love or Respect for them?

Whether any of these Motives operated on the Doctor we will not determine; but so the Fact was. He sent for his Brother, and easily found Means to introduce him at *Allworthy's* as a Person who intended only a short Visit to himself.

The Captain had not been in the House a Week before the Doctor had Reason to felicitate himself on his Discernment. The Captain was indeed as great a Master of the Art of Love as *Ovid* was formerly. He had besides received proper Hints from his Brother, which he failed not to improve to the best Advantage.

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

Containing many Rules, and some Examples, concerning falling in love : Descriptions of Beauty, and other more prudential Inducements to Matrimony.

IT hath been observed by wise Men or Women, I forget which, that all Persons are doomed to be in Love once in their Lives. No particular Season is, as I remember, assigned for this ; but the Age at which Miss Bridget was arrived seems to me as proper a Period as any to be fixed on for this Purpose : It often indeed happens much earlier ; but when it doth not, I have observed, it seldom or never fails about this Time. Moreover, we may remark that at this Season Love is of a more serious and steady Nature than what sometimes shews itself in the younger Parts of Life. The Love of Girls is uncertain, capricious, and so foolish that we cannot always discover what the young Lady would be at ; nay, it may almost be doubted, whether she always knows this herself.

D 6

Nay

Now we are never at a Loss to discern this in Women about Forty ; for as such grave, serious and experienced Ladies well know their own Meaning, so it is always very easy for a Man of the least Sagacity to discover ; + this with the utmost Certainty.

Miss *Briget* is an Example of all these Observations. She had not been many Times in the Captain's Company before she was seized with this Passion. Nor did she go pining and moping about the House, like a puny foolish Girl, ignorant of her Distemper : She felt, she knew, and she enjoyed, the pleasing Sensation, of which, as she was certain it was not only innocent but laudable, she was neither afraid nor ashamed.

And to say the Truth, there is in all Points, great Difference between the reasonable Passion which Women at this Age conceive towards Men, and the idle and childish Liking of a Girl to a Boy, which is often fixed on the Outside only, and on Things of little Value and no Duration ; as on Cherry Cheeks, small Lily-white Hands, slow-black Eyes, flowing Locks, downy Chins, dapper Shapes, nay sometimes on Charms more worthless than these,

these, and less the Party's own ; such are the outward Ornaments of the Person, and for which Men are beholden to the Taylor, the Laceman, the Perriwigmaker, the Hatter, and the Milliner, and not to Nature. Such a Passion Girls may well be ashamed, as they generally are, to own either to themselves or to others.

The Love of Miss *Bridget* was of another Kind. The Captain owed nothing to any of these Fop-makers in his Dress, nor was his Person much more beholden to Nature. Both his Dress and Person were such as, had they appeared in an Assembly, or a Drawing-room, would have been the Contempt and Ridicule of all the fine Ladies there. The former of these was indeed neat, but plain, coarse, ill-fancied, and out of Fashion. As for the latter, we have expressly described it above. So far was the Skin on his Cheeks from being Cherry-coloured, that you could not discern what the natural Colour of his Cheeks was, they being totally overgrown by a black Beard, which ascended to his Eyes. His Shape and Limbs were indeed exactly proportioned, but so large, that they denoted the Strength rather of a Ploughman than any other. His Shoulders were broad, beyond all Size, and the

the Calves of his Legs larger than those of a common Chairman. In short, his whole Person wanted all that Elegance and Beauty, which is the very reverse of clumsy Strength, and which so agreeably sets off most of our fine Gentlemen ; being partly owing to the high Blood of their Ancestors, *viz.* Blood made of rich Sauces and generous Wines, and partly to an early Town Education.

Tho' Miss *Bridget* was a Woman of the greatest Delicacy of Taste ; yet such were the Charms of the Captain's Conversation, that she totally overlooked the Defects of his Person. She imagined, and perhaps very wisely, that she should enjoy more agreeable Minutes with the Captain, than with a much prettier Fellow ; and forewent the Consideration of pleasing her Eyes, in order to procure herself much more solid Satisfaction.

The Captain no sooner perceived the Passion of Miss *Bridget*, in which Discovery he was very quick-sighted, than he faithfully returned it. The Lady, no more than her Lover, was remarkable for Beauty. I would attempt to draw her Picture ; but that is done already by a more able Master, Mr. *Hogarth* himself, to whom she sat many Years ago, and hath been lately exhibited by that Gentle-

Gentleman in his Print of a Winter's Morning, of which she was no improper Emblem, and may be seen walking (for walk she doth in the Print) to *Covent-Garden* Church, with a starved Foot-boy behind carrying her Prayer-book.

The Captain likewise very wisely preferred the more solid Enjoyments he expected with this Lady, to the fleeting Charms of Person. He was one of those wise Men, who regard Beauty in the other Sex as a very worthless and superficial Qualification; or, to speak more truly, who rather chuse to possess every Convenience of Life with an ugly Woman, than a handsome one without any of those Conveniences. And having a very good Appetite, and but little Nicety, he fancied he should play his Part very well at the matrimonial Banquet, without the Sauce of Beauty.

To deal plainly with the Reader, the Captain, ever since his Arrival, at least from the Moment his Brother had proposed the Match to him, long before he had discovered any flattering Symptoms in Miss *Bridget*, had been greatly enamoured; that is to say, of Mr. *Allworthy*'s House and Gardens, and of his Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments;

of

of all which the Captain was so passionately fond, that he would most probably have contracted Marriage with them, had he been obliged to have taken the Witch of *Endor* into the Bargain.

As Mr. *Allworthy* therefore had declared to the Doctor, that he never intended to take a second Wife, as his Sister was his nearest Relation, and as the Doctor had fished out that his Intentions were to make any Child of hers his Heir, which indeed the Law, without his Interposition, would have done for him; the Doctor and his Brother thought it an Act of Benevolence to give Being to a human Creature, who would be so plentifully provided with the most essential Means of Happiness. The whole Thoughts therefore of both the Brothers, were how to engage the Affections of this amiable Lady.

But Fortune, who is a tender Parent; and often doth more for her favourite Offspring than either they deserve or wish, had been so industrious for the Captain, that whilst he was laying Schemes to execute his Purpose, the Lady conceived the same Desires with himself, and was on her Side contriving how to give the Captain proper Encouragement;

agement, without appearing too forward; for she was a strict Observer of all Rules of Decorum. In this, however, she easily succeeded; for as the Captain was always on the Look-out, no Glance, Gesture, or Word, escaped him.

The Satisfaction which the Captain received from the kind Behaviour of Miss *Bridget*, was not a little abated by his Apprehensions of Mr. *Allworthy*; for, notwithstanding his disinterested Professions, the Captain imagined he would, when he came to act, follow the Example of the rest of the World, and refuse his Consent to a Match, so disadvantageous in point of Interest, to his Sister. From what Oracle he received this Opinion, I shall leave the Reader to determine; but, however he came by it, it strangely perplexed him how to regulate his Conduct so, as at once to convey his Affection to the Lady, and to conceal it from her Brother. He, at length, resolved to take all private Opportunities of making his Addresses; but in the Presence of Mr. *Allworthy* to be as reserved, and as much upon his Guard as was possible; and this Conduct was highly approved by the Brother.

He

He soon found Means to make his Addresses, in express Terms, to his Mistress, from whom he receiv'd an Answer in the proper Form ; *viz.* The Answer which was first made some thousands of Years ago, and which hath been handed down by Tradition from Mother to Daughter ever since. If I was to translate this into Latin, I should render it by these two Words, *Nolo Episcopari* ; a Phrase likewise of immemorial Use on another Occasion.

The Captain, however he came by his Knowledge, perfectly well understood the Lady ; and very soon after repeated his Application with more Warmth and Earnestness than before, and was again, according to due Form, rejected ; but as he had encreased in the Eagerness of his Desires, so the Lady, with the same Propriety, decreased in the Violence of her Refusal.

Not to tire the Reader, by leading him through every Scene of this Courtship, (which, tho' in the Opinion of a certain great Author, it is the pleasantest Scene of Life to the Actor, is perhaps as dull and tiresome as any whatever to the Audience) the Captain made his Advances in Form, the Citadel

Citadel was defended in Form, and at length, in proper Form, surrendered at Discretion.

During this whole Time, which filled the Space of near a Month, the Captain preserved great Distance of Behaviour to his Lady, in the Presence of the Brother, and the more he succeeded with her in private, the more reserved was he in public. And as for the Lady, she had no sooner secured her Lover, than she behaved to him before Company with the highest Degree of Indifference; so that Mr. *Allworthy* must have had the Insight of the Devil (or perhaps some of his worse Qualities) to have entertained the least Suspicion of what was going forward.

CHAP. XII.

Containing what the Reader may perhaps expect to find in it.

IN all Bargains, whether to fight, or to marry, or concerning any other such Business, little previous Ceremony is required, to bring the Matter to an Issue, when both Parties are really in earnest. This was the Case

Cafe at present, and in less than a Month the Captain and his Lady were Man and Wife.

The great Concern now was to break the Matter to Mr. *Allworthy*; and this was undertaken by the Doctor.

it

One Day then as *Allworthy* was walking in his Garden, the Doctor came to him, and with great Gravity of Aspect, and all the Concern which he could possibly affect in his Countenance, said, ‘ I am come, Sir,
 ‘ to impart an Affair to you of the utmost
 ‘ Consequence; but how shall I mention
 ‘ to you, what almost distracts me to think
 ‘ of?’ He then launched forth into the most bitter Inve^tatives both against Men and Women; accusing the former of having no Attachment but to their Interest, and the latter of being so addicted to vicious Inclinations, that they could never be safely trusted with one of the other Sex. ‘ Could I,
 ‘ said he, Sir, have suspected, that a Lady
 ‘ of such Prudence, such Judgment, such
 ‘ Learning, should indulge so indiscreet a
 ‘ Passion; or could I have imagined that
 ‘ my Brother—why do I call him so? He
 ‘ is no longer a Brother of mine.—’

‘ Indeed

‘Indeed but he is, said *Allworthy*, and
‘a Brother of mine too.’—‘Bless me, Sir,
‘said the Doctor, do you know the shock-
‘ing Affair?’—‘Look’ee, Mr. *Blifil*,
‘answered the good Man, it hath been my
‘constant Maxim in Life, to make the best
‘of all Matters which happen. My Sister,
‘tho’ many Years younger than me, is at
‘least old enough to be at the Age of Dis-
‘cretion. Had he imposed on a Child, I
‘should have been more averse to have
‘forgiven him; but a Woman upwards of
‘thirty must certainly be supposed to know
‘what will make her most happy. She
‘hath married a Gentleman, tho’ perhaps
‘not quite her Equal in Fortune; and if he
‘hath any Perfections in her Eye, which
‘can make up that Deficiency, I see no
‘Reason why I should object to her Choice
‘of her own Happiness; which I, no more
‘than herself, imagine to consist only in
‘immense Wealth. I might, perhaps, from
‘the many Declarations I have made, of
‘complying with almost any Proposal, have
‘expected to have been consulted on this
‘Occasion; but these Matters are of a very
‘delicate Nature, and the Scruples of Mo-
‘desty perhaps are not to be overcome.
‘As to your Brother, I have really no
: Anger

‘ Anger against him at all. He hath no
 ‘ Obligations to me, nor do I think he was
 ‘ under any Necessity of asking my Con-
 ‘ sent, since the Woman is, as I have said,
 ‘ *Sui Juris*, and of a proper Age to be en-
 ‘ tirely answerable only to herself for her
 ‘ Conduct.’

The Doctor repeated his Accusations against his Brother, accused Mr. *Allworthy* of too great Lenity, and declared that he should never more be brought either to see, or to own him for his Relation. He then launched forth into a Panegyric on *Allworthy's* Goodness, into the highest Encomiums on his Friendship; and concluded, by saying, He should never forgive his Brother for having put the Place which he bore in that Friendship, to a Hazard.

Allworthy thus answer'd : ‘ Had I con-
 ‘ ceived any Displeasure against your Bro-
 ‘ ther, I should never have carried that
 ‘ Resentment to the Innocent : But, I af-
 ‘ sure you, I have no such Displeasure.
 ‘ Your Brother appears to me to be a Man
 ‘ of Sense and Honour. I do not disap-
 ‘ prove the Taste of my Sister ; nor will I
 ‘ doubt but that she is equally the Object
 ‘ of his Inclinations. I have always thought
 ‘ Love

‘ Love the only Foundation of Happiness
‘ in a married State ; as it can only produce
‘ that high and tender Friendship, which
‘ should always be the Cement of this
‘ Union ; and, in my Opinion, all those
‘ Marriages which are contracted from
‘ other Motives, are greatly criminal ; they
‘ are a Profanation of a most holy Cere-
‘ mony, and generally end in Disquiet and
‘ Misery : For surely we may call it a Pro-
‘ fanation, to convert this most sacred In-
‘ stitution into a wicked Sacrifice to Lust,
‘ or Avarice : And what better can be said
‘ of those Matches to which Men are in-
‘ duced merely by the Consideration of a
‘ beautiful Person, or a great Fortune !

‘ To deny that Beauty is an agreeable
‘ Object to the Eye, and even worthy some
‘ Admiration, would be false and foolish.
‘ Beautiful is an Epithet often used in Scrip-
‘ ture, and always mentioned with Ho-
‘ nour. It was my own Fortune to marry
‘ a Woman, whom the World thought
‘ handsome, and I can truly say, I liked her
‘ the better on that Account. But, to
‘ make this the sole Consideration of Mar-
‘ riage, to lust after it so violently, as to
‘ overlook all Imperfections for its Sake,
‘ or to require it so absolutely as to reject
‘ and

‘ and disdain Religion, Virtue, and Sense,
‘ which are Qualities, in their Nature, of
‘ much higher Perfection, because an Ele-
‘ gance of Person only is wanting; this
‘ is surely inconsistent either with a wise
‘ Man, or a good Christian. And it is,
‘ perhaps, being too charitable to conclude
‘ that such Persons mean any thing more by
‘ their Marriage, than to please their carnal
‘ Appetites, for the Satisfaction of which
‘ we are taught it was not ordained.

‘ In the next Place, with respect to For-
‘ tune. Worldly Prudence perhaps exacts
‘ some Consideration on this Head; nor
‘ will I absolutely and altogether condemn
‘ it. As the World is constituted, the De-
‘ mands of a married State, and the Care of
‘ Posterity, require some little Regard to what
‘ we call Circumstances. Yet this Provi-
‘ sion is greatly encreased beyond what is
‘ really necessary, by Folly and Vanity,
‘ which create abundanily more Wants than
‘ Nature. Equipage for the Wife, and
‘ large Fortunes for the Children, are by
‘ Custom enrolled in the List of Nec-ssa-
‘ ries; and, to procure these, every thing
‘ truly solid and sweet, and virtuous, and
‘ religious, are neglected and overlooked.

‘ And

‘ And this in many Degrees ; the last and
 greatest of which seems scarce distinguish-
 able from Madness. I mean, where Per-
 sons of immense Fortunes contract them-
 selves to those who are, and must be,
 disagreeable to them ; to Fools and Knaves,
 in order to encrease an Estate, already
 larger even than the Demands of their
 Pleasures. Surely such Persons, if they
 will not be thought mad, must own, ei-
 ther that they are incapable of tasting the
 Sweets of the tenderest Friendship, or
 that they sacrifice the greatest Happiness
 of which they are capable, to the vain,
 uncertain, and senseless Laws of vulgar
 Opinion, which owe as well their Force,
 as their Foundation, to Folly.’

Here *Allworthy* concluded his Sermon, to which *Blifil* had listened with the profoundest Attention, tho’ it cost him some Pains to prevent now and then a small Discomposure of his Muscles. He now praised every Period of what he had heard, with the Warmth of a young Divine who hath the Honour to dine with a Bishop the same Day in which his Lordship hath mounted the Pulpit.

C H A P. XIII.

Which concludes the first Book, with an Instance of Ingratitude, which we hope will appear unnatural.

THE Reader, from what hath been said, may imagine that the Reconciliation (if indeed it could be so called) was only Matter of Form; we shall therefore pass it over, and hasten to what must surely be thought Matter of Substance.

The Doctor had acquainted his Brother with what had past between Mr. *Allworthy* and him; and added with a Smile. ‘ I promise you, I paid you off; nay, I absolutely desired the good Gentleman not to forgive you: For you know, after he had made a Declaration in your Favour, I might, with Safety, venture on such a Request with a Person of his Temper; and I was willing, as well for your Sake as for my own, to prevent the least Possibility of a Suspicion.’

Captain *Blifil* took not the least Notice of this, at that Time; but he afterwards made a very notable Use of it.

One

One of the Maxims which the Devil, in a late Visit upon Earth, left to his Disciples, is, when once you are got up, to kick the Stool from under you. In plain English, when you have made your Fortune by the good Offices of a Friend, you are advised to discard him as soon as you can.

Whether the Captain acted by this Maxim, I will not positively determine; so far we may confidently say, that his Actions may be fairly derived from this diabolical Principle; and indeed it is difficult to assign any other Motive to them: For no sooner was he possessed of Miss Bridget, and reconciled to *Allworthy*, than he began to shew a Coldness to his Brother, which increased daily; till at length it grew into Rudeness, and became very visible to every one.

The Doctor remonstrated to him privately concerning this Behaviour, but could obtain no other Satisfaction than the following plain Declaration: ‘ If you dislike any thing in my Brother’s House, Sir, you know you are at Liberty to quit it.’ This strange, cruel, and almost unaccountable Ingratitude in the Captain, absolutely broke the poor Doctor’s Heart: For Ingratitude

never so thoroughly pierces the human Breast, as when it proceeds from those in whose Behalf we have been guilty of Transgressions. Reflections on great and good Actions, however they are received or returned by those in whose Favour they are performed, always administer some Comfort to us ; but what Consolation shall we receive under so biting a Calamity as the ungrateful Behaviour of our Friend, when our wounded Conscience at the same Time flies in our Face, and upbraids us with having spotted it in the Service of one so worthless ?

Mr. *Allworthy* himself spoke to the Captain in his Brother's Behalf, and desired to know what Offence the Doctor had committed ; when the hard-hearted Villain had the Baseness to say, that he should never forgive him for the Injury which he had endeavoured to do him in his Favour ; which, he said, he had pumped out of him, and was such a Cruelty, that it ought not to be forgiven.

Allworthy spoke in very high Terms upon this Declaration, which, he said, became not a human Creature. He expressed, indeed, so much Resentment against an unforgiving Temper, that the Captain at last pretended

pretended to be convinced by his Arguments, and outwardly professed to be reconciled.

As for the Bride, she was now in her Honey-moon, and so passionately fond of her new Husband, that he never appeared, to her, to be in the wrong; and his Displeasure against any Person, was a sufficient Reason for her Dislike to the same.

The Captain, at Mr. *Allworthy's* Instance, was outwardly, as we have said, reconciled to his Brother, yet the same Rancour remained in his Heart; and he found so many Opportunities of giving him private Hints of this, that the House at last grew insupportable to the poor Doctor; and he chose rather to submit to any Inconveniences which he might encounter in the World, than longer to bear these cruel and ungrateful Insults, from a Brother for whom he had done so much.

He once intended to acquaint *Allworthy* with the whole; but he could not bring himself to submit to the Confession, by which he must take to his Share so great a Portion of Guilt. Besides, by how much the worse Man he represented his Brother to

be, so much the greater would his own Offence appear to *Allworthy*, and so much the greater, had he Reason to imagine, would be his Resentment.

He feigned, therefore, some Excuse of Business for his Departure, and promised to return soon again; and took leave of his Brother with so well-dissembled Content, that, as the Captain played his Part to the same Perfection, *Allworthy* remained well satisfied with the Truth of the Reconciliation.

The Doctor went directly to *London*, where he died soon after of a broken Heart; a Distemper which kills many more than is generally imagined, and would have a fair Title to a Place in the Bill of Mortality, did it not differ in one Instance from all other Diseases, *viz.* That no Physician can cure it.

Now, upon the most diligent Enquiry into the former Lives of these two Brothers, I find, besides the cursed and hellish Maxim of Policy above-mentioned, another Reason for the Captain's Conduct: The Captain, besides what we have before said of him, was a Man of great Pride and Fierceness, and

and had always treated his Brother, who was of a different Complexion, and greatly deficient in both these Qualities, with the utmost Air of Superiority! The Doctor, however, had much the larger Share of Learning, and was by many reputed to have the better Understanding. This the Captain knew, and could not bear. For, tho' Envy is at best a very malignant Passion, yet is its Bitterness greatly heightened by mixing with Contempt towards the same Object; and very much afraid I am, that whenever an Obligation is joined to these two, Indignation, and not Gratitude, will be the Product of all three.

THE HISTORY OF A FOUNDLING.

BOOK II.

Containing Scenes of matrimonial Felicity in different Degrees of Life; and various other Transactions during the first two Years after the Marriage between Captain Blifil, and Miss Bridget Allworthy.

CHAP. I.

Shewing what Kind of a History this is; what it is like, and what it is not like.

THO' we have properly enough entitled this our Work, a History, and not a Life; nor an Apology for a Life, as is more in Fashion; yet we intend in it rather to pursue the Method of those

those Writers who profess to disclose the Revolutions of Countries, than to imitate the painful and voluminous Historian, who to preserve the Regularity of his Series thinks himself obliged to fill up as much Paper with the Detail of Months and Years in which nothing remarkable happened, as he employs upon those notable Æras when the greatest Scenes have been transacted on the human Stage.

Such Histories as these do, in reality, very much resemble a News-Paper, which consists of just the same Number of Words, whether there be any News in it or not. They may likewise be compared to a Stage-Coach, which performs constantly the same Course, empty as well as full. The Writer, indeed, seems to think himself obliged to keep even Pace with Time, whose Amanuensis he is ; and, like his Master, travels as slowly through Centuries of monkish Dulness, when the World seems to have been asleep, as through that bright and busy Age so nobly distinguished by the excellent Latin Poet.

*“ Ad configendum tementibus undique
pænis ;*

“ Omnia cum belli trepido concussa tumultu

- “ *Horrida contremuere sub altis ætheris auris :*
 “ *In dubioque fuit sub utrorum regna ca-*
dendum
 “ *Omnibus humanis effet, terraque marique.”*

Of which, we wish we could give our Reader a more adequate Translation than that by Mr. Creech.

- “ When dreadful *Cartilage* frightened *Rome* with Arms,
 “ And all the World was shook with fierce Alarms ;
 “ Whilst undecided yet, which Part should fall,
 “ Which Nation rise the glorious Lord of all.

Now it is our Purpose in the ensuing Pages, to pursue a contrary Method. When any extraordinary Scene presents itself (as we trust will often be the Case) we shall spare no Pains nor Paper to open it at large to our Reader ; but if whole Years should pass without producing any thing worthy his Notice, we shall not be afraid of a Chasm in our History ; but shall hasten on to Matters of Consequence, and leave such Periods of Time totally unobserved.

These

These are indeed to be considered as Blanks in the grand Lottery of Time. We therefore who are the Registers of that Lottery, shall imitate those sagacious Persons who deal in that which is drawn at *Guild-Hall*, and who never trouble the Public with the many Blanks they dispose of ; but when a great Prize happens to be drawn, the News-Papers are presently filled with it, and the World is sure to be informed at whose Office it was sold : Indeed, commonly two or three different Offices lay claim to the Honour of having disposed of it ; by which I suppose the Adventurers are given to understand that certain Brokers are in the Secrets of Fortune, and indeed of her Cabinet-Council.

My Reader then is not to be surprised, if in the Course of this Work, he shall find some Chapters very short, and others altogether as long ; some that contain only the Time of a single Day, and others that comprise Years ; in a word, if my History sometimes seems to stand still, and sometimes to fly. For all which I shall not look on myself as accountable to any Court of Critical Jurisdiction whatever : For as I am, in reality, the Founder of a new Province of

Writing, so I am at liberty to make what Laws I please therein. And these Laws, my Readers, whom I consider as my Subjects, are bound to believe in and to obey ; with which that they may readily and chearfully comply, I do hereby assure them that I shall principally regard their Ease and Advantage in all such Institutions : For I do not, like a *jure divino* Tyrant, imagine that they are my Slaves or my Commodity. I am, indeed, set over them for their own Good only, and was created for their Use, and not they for mine. Nor do I doubt, while I make their Interest the great Rule of my Writings, they will unanimously concur in supporting my Dignity, and in rendering me all the Honour I shall deserve or desire.

C H A P. II.

Religious Cautions against shewing too much Favour to Bastards ; and a great Discovery made by Mrs. Deborah Wilkins.

EIGHT Months after the Celebration of the Nuptials between Captain Blifil and Miss Bridget Allworthy, a young Lady of great Beauty, Merit, and Fortune, was Miss Bridget, by reason of a Fright, delivered of

of a fine Boy. The Child, was indeed, to all Appearance, perfect ; but the Midwife discovered, it was born a Month before its full Time.

Tho' the Birth of an Heir of his beloved Sister was a Circumstance of great Joy to Mr. Allworthy, yet it did not alienate his Affections from the little Foundling, to whom he had been Godfather, had given his own Name of *Thomas*, and whom he had hitherto seldom failed of visiting at least once a Day, in his Nursery.

He told his Sister, if she pleased, the new-born Infant should be bred up together with little *Tommy*, to which she consented, tho' with some little Reluctance: For she had truly a great Complacence for her Brother; and hence she had always behaved towards the Foundling with rather more Kindness than Ladies of rigid Virtue can sometimes bring themselves to shew to these Children, who, however innocent, may be truly called the living Monuments of Incontinence.

The Captain could not so easily bring himself to bear what he condemned as a Fault in Mr. Allworthy. He gave him frequent

quent Hints, that to adopt the Fruits of Sin was to give countenance to it. He quoted several Texts (for he was well read in Scripture) such as, *He visits the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children*; and, *the Fathers have eaten sour Grapes, and the Children's Teeth are set on edge*, &c. Whence he argued the Legality of punishing the Crime of the Parent on the Bastard. He said, ‘ Tho’ the Law did not positively allow the destroying such base-born Children, yet it held them to be the Children of no body; that the Church considered them as the Children of no body; and that at the best, they ought to be brought up to the lowest and vilest Offices of the Commonwealth.’

Mr. *Allworthy* answered to all this and much more which the Captain had urged on this Subject, ‘ That however guilty the Parents might be, the Children were certainly innocent. That as to the Texts he had quoted, the former of them was a particular Denunciation against the Jews for the Sin of Idolatry, of relinquishing and hating their heavenly King; and the latter was parabolically spoken, and rather intended to denote the certain and necessary Consequences of Sin, than any express

express Judgment against it. But to represent the Almighty as avenging the Sins of the Guilty on the Innocent, was indecent, if not blasphemous; as it was to represent him acting against the first Principles of natural Justice, and against the original Notions of Right and Wrong, which he himself had implanted in our Minds; by which we were to judge not only in all Matters which were not revealed, but even of the Truth of Revelation itself. He said, he knew many held the same Principles with the Captain on this Head; but he was himself firmly convinced to the contrary, and would provide in the same Manner for this poor Infant, as if a legitimate Child had had the Fortune to have been found in the same Place.'

While the Captain was taking all Opportunities to press these and such like Arguments to remove the little Foundling from Mr. *Allworthy's*, of whose Fondness for him he began to be jealous, Mrs. *Deborah* had made a Discovery, which in its Event threatned at least to prove more fatal to poor *Tommy*, than all the Reasonings of the Captain.

Whether

Whether the insatiable Curiosity of this good Woman had carried her on to that Business, or whether she did it to confirm herself in the good Graces of Mrs. Blifil, who, notwithstanding her outward Behaviour to the Foundling, frequently abused the Infant in private, and her Brother too for his Fondness to it, I will not determine; but she had now, as she conceived, fully detected the Father of the Foundling.

Now as this was a Discovery of great Consequence, it may be necessary to trace it from the Fountain-head. We shall therefore very minutely lay open those previous Matters by which it was produced; and for that Purpose, we shall be obliged to reveal all the Secrets of a little Family, with which my Reader is at present entirely unacquainted; and of which the Oeconomy was so rare and extraordinary, that I fear it will shock the utmost Credulity of many married Persons.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

The Description of a domestic Government founded upon Rules directly contrary to those of Aristotle.

MY Reader may please to remember he hath been informed that *Jenny Jones* had lived some Years with a certain Schoolmaster, who had, at her earnest Desire, instructed her in *Latin*, in which, to do justice to her Genius, she had so improved herself, that she was become a better Scholar than her Master.

Indeed, tho' this poor Man had undertaken a Profession to which Learning must be allowed necessary, this was the least of his Commendations. He was one of the best-natured Fellows in the World, and was at the same time Master of so much Pleasantry and Humour that he was reputed the Wit of the Country; and all the neighbouring Gentlemen were so desirous of his Company, that as denying was not his Talent, he spent much Time at their Houses, which he might with more Emolument have spent in his School.

It

It may be imagined, that a Gentleman so qualified, and so disposed, was in no danger of becoming formidable to the learned Seminaries of *Eton* or *Westminster*. To speak plainly, his Scholars were divided into two Classes. In the upper of which was a young Gentleman, the Son of a neighbouring 'Squire, who at the Age of Seventeen was just entered into his Syntax; and in the lower was a second Son of the same Gentleman, who, together with seven Parish-boys, was learning to read and write.

The Stipend arising hence would hardly have indulged the Schoolmaster in the Luxuries of Life, had he not added to this Office those of Clerk and Barber, and had not Mr. *Allworthy* added to the whole an Annuity of Ten Pound, which the poor Man received every Christmas, and with which he was enabled to cheer his Heart during that sacred Festival.

Among his other Treasures, the Pedagogue had a Wife whom he had married out of Mr. *Allworthy's* Kitchen, for her Fortune, *viz.* Twenty Pound, which she had there amassed.

This

This Woman was not very amiable in her Person. Whether she sat to my Friend *Hogarth*, or no, I will not determine ; but she exactly resembled the young Woman who is pouring out her Mistress's Tea in the third Picture of the Harlot's Progress. She was besides a profest Follower of that notable Sect founded by *Xantippe* of old ; by means of which, she became more formidable in the School than her Husband : for to confess the Truth, he was never Master there, or any where else, in her Presence.

Tho' her Countenance did not denote much natural Sweetness of Temper, yet this was perhaps somewhat soured by a Circumstance which generally poisons matrimonial Felicity. For Children are rightly called the Pledges of Love ; and her Husband, tho' they had been married nine Years, had given her no such Pledges ; a Default for which he had no Excuse, either from Age or Health, being not yet thirty Years old, and, what they call a jolly, brisk, young Man.

Hence arose another Evil which produced no little Uneasiness to the poor Pedagogue,

of whom she maintained so constant a Jealousy, that he durst hardly speak to one Woman in the Parish ; for the least Degree of Civility, or even Correspondence with any Female, was sure to bring his Wife upon her Back, and his own.

In order to guard herself against matrimonial Injuries in her own House, as she kept one Maid Servant, she always took Care to chuse her out of that Order of Females, whose Faces are taken as a Kind of Security for their Virtue ; of which Number *Jenny Jones*, as the Reader hath been before informed, was one.

As the Face of this young Woman might be called pretty good Security of the before-mentioned Kind, and as her Behaviour had been always extremely modest ; which is the certain Consequence of Understanding in Women ; she had passed above four Years at Mr. *Partridge's*, (for that was the Schoolmaster's Name) without creating the least Suspicion in her Mistress. Nay, she had been treated with uncommon Kindness, and her Mistress had permitted Mr. *Partridge* to give her those Instructions, which have been before commemorated.

But

But it is with Jealousy, as with the Gout. When such Distempers are in the Blood, there is never any Security against their breaking out; and that often on the slightest Occasions, and when least suspected.

Thus it happened to Mrs. *Partridge*, who had submitted four Years to her Husband's teaching this young Woman, and had suffered her often to neglect her Work, in order to pursue her Learning. For passing by one Day, as the Girl was reading, and her Master leaning over her, the Girl, I know not for what Reason, suddenly started up from her Chair; and this was the first Time that Suspicion ever entered into the Head of her Mistress.

This did not, however, at that Time, discover itself, but lay lurking in her Mind, like a concealed Enemy, who waits for a Reinforcement of additional Strength, before he openly declares himself, and proceeds upon hostile Operations; and such additional Strength soon arrived to corroborate her Suspicion: For not long after, the Husband and Wife being at Dinner, the Master said to his Maid, *Da mibi aliquid Potum*; upon which the poor Girl smiled, perhaps

perhaps at the Badness of the Latin, and when her Mistress cast her Eyes on her, blushed, possibly with a Consciousness of having laughed at her Master: Mrs. Partridge, upon this, immediately fell into a Fury, and discharged the Trencher on which she was eating, at the Head of poor Jenny, crying out, ‘ You impudent Whore, ‘ do you play Tricks with my Husband ‘ before my Face?’ and, at the same Instant, rose from her Chair, with a Knife in her Hand, with which, most probably, she would have excecuted very tragical Vengeance, had not the Girl taken the Advantage of being nearer the Door than her Mistress, and avoided her Fury, by running away ; for, as to the poor Husband, whether Surprize had rendered him motionless, or Fear (which is full as probable) had restrained him from venturing at any Opposition, he sat staring and trembling in his Chair ; nor did he once offer to move or speak, till his Wife returning from the Pursuit of Jenny, made some defensive Measures necessary for his own Preservation ; and he likewise was obliged to retreat, after the Example of the Maid.

This good Woman was, no more than Othello, of a Disposition,

—To

—To make a Life of Jealousy,
And follow still the Changes of the Moon
With fresh Suspicions—

with her, as well as him ;

—To be once in doubt
Was once to be resolved—

she therefore ordered Jenny immediately to pack up her Alls, and be gone ; for that she was determined she should not sleep that Night within her Walls.

Mr. Partridge had profited too much, by Experience, to interpose in a Matter of this Nature. He therefore had Recourse to his usual Recipe of Patience ; for, tho' he was not a great Adept in Latin, he remembered and well understood the Advice contained in these Words :

—*Leve fit, quod bene fertur Onus.*

In English : ‘ A Burden becomes lightest, when is is well borne.’

Which he had always in his Mouth, and of which, to say the Truth, he had often Occasion to experience the Truth.

Jenny

Jenny offered to make Protestations of her Innocence ; but the Tempest was too high for her to be heard. She then betook herself to the Business of Packing, for which a small Quantity of brown Paper sufficed ; and, having received her small Pittance of Wages, she returned home.

The Schoolmaster and his Consort pass'd their Time unpleasantly enough that Evening ; but something or other happened before the next Morning, which a little abated the Fury of Mrs. Partridge ; and she at length admitted her Husband to make his Excuses. To which she gave the readier Belief, as he had, instead of desiring her to recall Jenny, professed a Satisfaction in her being dismissed, saying, She was grown of little Use as a Servant, spending all her Time in reading, and was become, moreover, very pert and obstinate : For indeed she and her Master had lately had frequent Disputes in Literature ; in which, as hath been said, she was become greatly his Superior. This, however, he would by no means allow ; and, as he called her persisting in the Right, Obstinacy, he began to hate her with no small Inveteracy.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Containing one of the most bloody Battles, or rather Duels, that were ever recorded in Domestic History.

FOR the Reasons mentioned in the preceding Chapter, and from some other matrimonial Concessions, well known to most Husbands ; and which, like the Secrets of Free Masonry, should be divulged to none who are not Members of that honourable Fraternity, Mrs. *Partridge* was pretty well satisfied, that she had condemned her Husband without Cause, and endeavoured, by Acts of Kindness, to make him Amends for her false Suspicion. Her Passions were, indeed, equally violent, which ever Way they inclined : for, as she could be extremely angry, so could she be altogether as fond.

But tho' these Passions ordinarily succeeded each other, and scarce twenty-four Hours ever passed in which the Pedagogue was not, in some Degree, the Object of both ; yet, on extraordinary Occasions, when the Passion of Anger had raged very high, the Remission was usually longer, and so was

the Case at present ; for she continued longer in a State of Affability, after this Fit of Jealousy was ended, than her Husband had ever known before : And, had it not been for some little Exercises, which all the Followers of *Xantippe* are obliged to perform daily, Mr. *Partridge* would have enjoyed a perfect Serenity of several Months.

Perfect Calms at Sea are always suspected by the experienced Mariner to be the Fore-runners of a Storm : And I know some Persons, who, without being generally the Devotees of Superstition, are apt to apprehend, that great and unusual Peace or Tranquility, will be attended with its opposite : For which Reason the Antients used, on such Occasions, to sacrifice to the Goddess *Nemesis* ; a Deity who was thought by them to look with an invidious Eye on human Felicity, and to have a peculiar Delight in overturning it.

As we are very far from believing in any such Heathen Goddess, or from encouraging any Superstition, so we wish Mr. *John Fr—*, or some other such Philosopher, would bestir himself a little, in order to find out the real Cause of this sudden Transition, from good to bad Fortune, which hath been
so

so often remarked, and of which we shall proceed to give an Instance; for it is our Province to relate Facts, and we shall leave Causes to Persons of much higher Genius.

Mankind have always taken great Delight in knowing and descanting on the Actions of others. Hence there have been, in all Ages, and Nations, certain Places set apart for public Rendezvous, where the Curious might meet, and satisfy their mutual Curiosity. Among these, the Barbers Shops have justly ~~bore~~ the Pre-eminence. Among the Greeks, Barbers News was a proverbial Expression, and Horace, in one of his Epistles, makes honourable Mention of the Roman Barbers in the same Light.

Those of *England* are known to be no wise inferior to their *Greek* or *Roman* Predecessors. You there see foreign Affairs discussed in a Manner little inferior to that with which they are handled in the Coffee-houses; and domestick Occurrences are much more largely and freely treated in the former, than in the latter. But this serves only for the Men. Now, whereas the Females of this Country, especially those of the lower Order, do associate themselves much more than those of other Nations,

our Polity would be highly deficient, if they had not some Place set apart likewise for the Indulgence of their Curiosity, seeing they are in this no way inferior to the other half of the Species.

In enjoying, therefore, such Place of Rendezvous, the *British* Fair ought to esteem themselves more happy than any of their foreign Sisters; as I do not remember either to have read in History, or to have seen in my Travels, any thing of the like Kind.

This Place then is no other than the Chandler's Shop; the known Seat of all the News; or, as it is vulgarly called, Gossiping, in every Parish in *England*.

Mrs. *Partridge* being one Day at this Assembly of Females, was asked by one of her Neighbours, if she had heard no News lately of *Jenny Jones*. To which she answered in the negative. Upon this, the other replied, with a Smile, That the Parish was very much obliged to her for having turned *Jenny* away as she did.

Mrs. *Partridge*, whose Jealousy, as the Reader well knows, was long since cured, and

and who had no other Quarrel to her Maid, answered boldly, She did not know any Obligation the Parish had to her on that Account, for she believed *Jenny* had scarce left her Equal behind her.

' No, truly, said the Gossip, I hope not, tho' I fancy we have Sluts enow too.' ' Then you have not heard, it seems, that she hath been brought to bed of two Bastards; but as they are not born here, my Husband, and the other Overseer, says we shall not be obliged to keep them.'

' Two Bastards!' answered Mrs. *Partridge* hastily, ' you surprize me. I don't know whether we must keep them; but I am sure they must have been begotten here, for the Wench hath not been nine Months gone away.'

Nothing can be so quick and sudden as the Operations of the Mind, especially when Hope, or Fear; or Jealousy to which the two others are but Journeymen, set it to work. It occurred instantly to her, that *Jenny* had scarce ever been out of her own House, while she lived with her. The leaning over the Chair, the sudden starting up, the Latin, the Smile, and many other Things

rushed upon her all at once. The Satisfaction her Husband expressed in the Departure of *Jenny*, appeared now to be only dissembled; again, in the same Instant, to be real, and yet to confirm her Jealousy, as proceeding from Satiety, and a hundred other bad Causes. In a Word, she was convinced of her Husband's Guilt, and immediately left the Assembly in Confusion.

As fair *Grimalkin*, who, though the youngest of the Feline Family, degenerates not in Ferosity from the elder Branches of her House, and, though inferior in Strength, is equal in Fierceness to the noble Tyger himself, when a little Mouse, whom it hath long tormented in Sport, escapes from her Clutches for a while, frets, scolds, growls, swears; but if the Trunk, or Box, behind which the Mouse lay hid, be again removed, she flies like Lightning on her Prey, and, with envenomed Wrath, bites, scratches, mumbles, and tears the little Animal.

Not with less Fury did Mrs. *Partridge* fly on the poor Pedagogue. Her Tongue, Teeth, and Hands, fell all upon him at once. His Wig was in an Instant torn from his Head, his Shirt from his Back, and from

from his Face descended five Streams of Blood, denoting the Number of Claws with which Nature had unhappily armed the Enemy.

Mr. *Partridge* acted for some Time on the defensive only ; indeed he attempted only to guard his Face with his Hands ; but as he found that his Antagonist abated nothing of her Rage, he thought he might, at least, endeavour to disarm her, or rather to confine her Arms ; in doing which, her Cap fell off in the Struggle, and her Hair being too short to reach her Shoulders, erected itself on her Head ; her Stays likewise, which were laced through one single Hole at the Bottom, burst open, and her Breasts, which were much more redundant than her Hair, hung down below her Middle ; her Face was likewise marked with the Blood of her Husband ; her Teeth gnashed with Rage, and Fire, such as sparkles from a Smith's Forge, darted from her Eyes. So that, altogether, this Amazonian Heroine might have been an Object of Terror to a much bolder Man than Mr. *Partridge*.

He had, at length, the good Fortune, by getting Possession of her Arms, to render those Weapons, which she wore at the Ends of her Fingers, useless ; which she no

sooner perceived, than the Softness of her Sex prevailed over her Rage, and she presently dissolved in Tears, which soon after concluded in a Fit.

That small Share of Sense which Mr. *Partridge* had hitherto preserved through this Scene of Fury, of the Cause of which he was hitherto ignorant, now utterly abandoned him. He ran instantly into the Street, hollowing out, that his Wife was in the Agonies of Death, and beseeching the Neighbours to fly with the utmost Haste to her Assistance. Several good Women obeyed his Summons, who entering his House, and applying the usual Remedies on such Occasions, Mrs. *Partridge* was, at length, to the great Joy of her Husband, brought to herself.

As soon as she had a little recollected her Spirits, and somewhat composed herself with a Cordial, she began to inform the Company of the manifold Injuries she had received from her Husband; who, she said, was not contented to injure her in her Bed; but, upon her upbraiding him with it, had treated her in the cruellest Manner imaginable; had tore her Cap and Hair from her Head, and her Stays from her Body, giving her, at

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the same Time, several Blows, the Marks
of which she should carry to the Grave.

The poor Man, who bore on his Face
many more visible Marks of the Indignation
of his Wife, stood in silent Astonishment at
this Accusation ; which the Reader will, I
believe, bear Witness for him, had greatly
exceeded the Truth ; for indeed he had not
struck her once ; and this Silence being in-
terpreted to be a Confession of the Charge,
by the whole Court, they all began at once,
una voce, to rebuke and revile him, repeat-
ing often, that none but a Coward ever
struck a Woman.

Mr. Partridge bore all this patiently ; but
when his Wife appealed to the Blood on
her Face, as an Evidence of his Barbarity,
he could not help laying Claim to his own
Blood, for so it really was ; as he thought
it very unnatural, that this should rise up
(as we are taught that of a murdered Person
often doth) in Vengeance against him.

To this the Women made no other An-
swer, than that it was Pity it had not come
from his Heart, instead of his Face ; all
declaring, that if their Husbands should
lift their Hands against them, they would

After much Admonition for what was past, and much good Advice to Mr. *Partridge* for his future Behaviour, the Company, at length, departed, and left the Husband and Wife to a personal Conference together, in which Mr. *Partridge* soon learned the Cause of all his Sufferings.

C H A P. V.

Containing much Matter to exercise the Judgment and Reflection of the Reader.

I Believe it is a true Observation, that few Secrets are divulged to one Person only; but certainly, it would be next to a Miracle, that a Fact of this Kind should be known to a whole Parish, and not transpire any farther.

And, indeed, a very few Days had past, before the Country, to use a common Phrase, rung of the Schoolmaster of *Little Baddington*; who was said to have beaten his Wife in the most cruel Manner. Nay, in some Places, it was reported he had murdered

dered her; in others, that he had broke her Arms; in others, her Legs; in short, there was scarce an Injury which can be done to a human Creature, but what Mrs. *Partridge* was somewhere or other affirmed to have received from her Husband.

The Cause of this Quarrel was likewise variously reported; for, as some People said that Mrs. *Partridge* had caught her Husband in Bed with his Maid, so many other Reasons, of a very different Kind, went abroad. Nay, some transferred the Guilt to the Wife, and the Jealousy to the Husband.

Mrs. *Wilkins* had long ago heard of this Quarrel; but, as a different Cause from the true one had reached her Ears, she thought proper to conceal it; and the rather, perhaps, as the Blame was universally laid on Mr. *Partridge*; and his Wife, when she was Servant to Mr. *Allworthy*, had in something offended Mrs. *Wilkins*, who was not of a very forgiving Temper.

But Mrs. *Wilkins*, whose Eyes could see Objects at a Distance, and who could very well look forward a few Years into Futurity, had perceived a strong Likelihood of Cap-

tain *Blifil's* being hereafter her Master ; and, as she plainly discerned, that the Captain bore no great Good-will to the little Foundling, she fancied it would be rendering him an agreeable Service, if she could make any Discoveries that might lessen the Affection which Mr. *Allworthy* seemed to have contracted for this Child, and which gave visible Uneasiness to the Captain ; who could not entirely conceal it even before *Allworthy* himself ; though his Wife, who acted her Part much better in public, frequently recommended to him her own Example, of conniving at the Folly of her Brother, which, she said, she at least as well perceived, and as much resented as any other possibly could.

Mrs. *Wilkins* having therefore, by Accident, gotten a true Scent of the above Story, though long after it had happened, failed not to satisfy herself thoroughly of all the Particulars, and then acquainted the Captain, that she had at last discovered the true Father of the little Bastard, which she was sorry, she said, to see her Master lose his Reputation in the Country, by taking so much Notice of.

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The Captain chid her for the Conclusion of her Speech, as an improper Assurance in judging of her Master's Actions: For if his Honour, or his Understanding, would have suffered the Captain to make an Alliance with Mrs. *Wilkins*, his Pride would by no means have admitted it. And, to say the Truth, there is no Conduct less politic, than to enter into any Confederacy with your Friend's Servants, against their Master. For, by these Means, you afterwards become the Slave of these very Servants; by whom you are constantly liable to be betrayed. And this Consideration, perhaps, it was which prevented Captain *Blifil* from being more explicite with Mrs. *Wilkins*; or from encouraging the Abuse which she had bestowed on *Allworthy*.

But though he declared no Satisfaction to Mrs. *Wilkins* at this Discovery, he enjoyed not a little from it in his own Mind, and resolved to make the best Use of it he was able.

He kept this Matter a long Time concealed within his own Breast, in Hopes that Mr. *Allworthy* might hear it from some other Person;

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Person ; but Mrs. *Wilkins*, whether she re-
sented the Captain's Behaviour, or whether
his Cunning was beyond her, and she
feared the Discovery might displease him,
never afterwards opened her Lips about the
Matter.

I have thought it somewhat strange, upon
Reflection, that the House-keeper never
acquainted Mrs. *Blifil* with this News, as
Women are more inclined to communi-
cate all Pieces of Intelligence to their own
Sex, than to ours. The only Way, as it
appears to me, of solving this Difficulty, is,
by imputing it to that Distance which was
now grown between the Lady and the
House-keeper : Whether this arose from a
Jealousy in Mrs. *Blifil*, that *Wilkins* shewed
too great a Respect to the Foundling ; for
while she was endeavouring to ruin the lit-
tle Infant, in order to ingratiate herself with
the Captain, she was every Day more and
more commanding it before *Allworthy*, as
his Fondness for it every Day encreased.
This, notwithstanding all the Care she took
at other Times to express the direct con-
trary to Mrs. *Blifil*, perhaps offended that
delicate Lady, who certainly now hated
Mrs. *Wilkins* ; and though she did not, or
possibly

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possibly could not, absolutely remove her, from her Place, she found, however, the Means of making her Life very uneasy. This Mrs. *Wilkins*, at length, so resented, that she very openly shewed all Manner of Respect and Fondness to little *Tommy*, in Opposition to Mrs. *Blifil*.

The Captain, therefore, finding the Story in Danger of perishing, he at last took an Opportunity to reveal it himself.

He was one Day engaged with Mr. *Allworthy* in a Discourse on Charity : In which the Captain, with great Learning, proved to Mr. *Allworthy*, that the Word *Charity*, in Scripture, no where means Beneficence, or Generosity.

‘ The Christian Religion, he said, was
‘ instituted for much nobler Purposes, than
‘ to enforce a Lesson which many Heathen
‘ Philosophers had taught us long before,
‘ and which, though it might, perhaps, be
‘ called a moral Virtue, favoured but little
‘ of that sublime Christian-like Disposition,
‘ that vast Elevation of Thought, in Purity
‘ approaching to angelic Perfection, to be
‘ attained, expressed, and felt only by
‘ Grace. Those (he said) came nearer to
‘ the

‘ the Scripture Meaning, who understood
 ‘ by it Candour, or the forming of a bene-
 ‘ volent Opinion of our Brethren, and pas-
 ‘ sing a favourable Judgment on their
 ‘ Actions ; a Virtue much higher, and more
 ‘ extensive in its Nature, than a pitiful Di-
 ‘ stribution of Alms, which, though we
 ‘ would never so much prejudice, or even
 ‘ ruin our Families, could never reach
 ‘ many ; whereas Charity, in the other and
 ‘ truer Sense, might be extended to all
 ‘ Mankind.’

He said, ‘ Considering who the Disciples
 ‘ were, it would be absurd to conceive the
 ‘ Doctrine of Generosity, or giving Alms,
 ‘ to have been preached to them. And,
 ‘ as we could not well imagine this Doctrine
 ‘ should be preached by its divine Author
 ‘ to Men who could not practise it, much
 ‘ less shall we think it understood so by
 ‘ those who can practise it, and do not.

‘ But though, continued he, there is,
 ‘ I am afraid, little Merit in these Bene-
 ‘ factions ; there would, I must confess, be
 ‘ much Pleasure in them to a good Mind,
 ‘ if it was not abated by one Consideration.
 ‘ I mean, that we are liable to be imposed
 ‘ upon, and to confer our choicest Favours
 ‘ often

' often on the Undeserving, as you must
' own was your Case in your Bounty to that
' worthless Fellow *Partridge*: For two or
' three such Examples must greatly lessen
' the inward Satisfaction, which a good
' Man wculd otherwise find in Genero-
' sity; nay, may even make him timo-
' rous in bestowing, lest he should be
' guilty of supporting Vice, and encourag-
' ing the Wicked; a Crime of a very black
' Dye, and for which it will by no means
' be a sufficient Excuse, that we have not
' actually intended such an Encouragement;
' unless we have used the utmost Caution
' in chusing the Objects of our Benefi-
' cence. A Consideration which, I make
' no Doubt, hath greatly checked the Libe-
' rality of many a worthy and pious Man.'

Mr. *Allworthy* answered, ' He could not
' dispute with the Captain in the *Greek Lan-*
' *guage*, and therefore could say nothing as
' to the true Sense of the Word, which is
' translated *Charity*; but that he had al-
' ways thought it was interpreted to con-
' sist in Action, and that giving Alms con-
' stituted at least one Branch of that
' Virtue.

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‘ As to the meritorious Part, he said, he
‘ readily agreed with the Captain; for where
‘ could be the Merit of barely discharging
‘ a Duty; which he said, let the Word
‘ Charity have what Construction it would,
‘ it sufficiently appeared to be from the
‘ whole Tenure of the New Testament.
‘ And as he thought it an indispensable
‘ Duty, enjoined both by the Christian Law,
‘ and by the Law of Nature itself; so was
‘ it withal so pleasant, that if any Duty
‘ could be said to be its own Reward, or to
‘ pay us while we were discharging it, it
‘ was this.

‘ To confess the Truth, said he, there is
‘ one Degree of Generosity, (of Charity I
‘ would have called it) which seems to have
‘ some Shew of Merit, and that is, where
‘ from a Principle of Benevolence, and
‘ Christian Love, we bestow on another what
‘ we really want ourselves; where, in order
‘ to lessen the Distresses of another, we conde-
‘ scend to share some Part of them by giv-
‘ ing what even our own Necessities cannot
‘ well spare. This is, I think, meritorious;
‘ but to relieve our Brethren only with our
‘ Superfluities; to be charitable (I must use
‘ the Word) rather at the Expence of our
‘ Coffers

‘ Coffers than ourselves ; to save several
‘ Families from Misery rather than hang up
‘ an extraordinary Picture in our Houses,
‘ or gratify any other idle, ridiculous Va-
‘ nity, this seems to be only being Chri-
‘ stians, nay indeed, only being human
‘ Creatures. Nay, I will venture to go far-
‘ ther, it is being in some degree Epicures :
‘ For what could the greatest Epicure wish
‘ rather than to eat with many Mouths in-
‘ stead of one ; which I think may be pre-
‘ dicated of any one who knows that the
‘ Bread of many is owing to his own Lar-
‘ gesses.

‘ As to the Apprehension of bestowing
‘ Bounty on such as may hereafter prove
‘ unworthy Objects, because many have
‘ proved such ; surely it can never deter a
‘ good Man from Generosity : I do not
‘ think a few or many Examples of Ingra-
‘ titude can justify a Man’s hardening his
‘ Heart against the Distresses of his Fellow-
‘ Creatures ; nor do I believe it can ever
‘ have such Effect on a truly benevolent
‘ Mind. Nothing less than a Persuasion
‘ of universal Depravity can lock up the
‘ Charity of a good Man ; and this Per-
‘ suasion must lead him, I think, either
‘ into Atheism, or Enthusiasm ; but surely
‘ it

‘ it is unfair to argue such universal Depravity from a few vicious Individuals ; nor was this, I believe, ever done by a Man, who upon searching his own Mind found one certain Exception to the general Rule. He then concluded by asking who that *Partridge* was whom he had called a worthless Fellow.’

‘ I mean,’ said the Captain, *Partridge*, ‘ the Barber, the Schoolmaster, what do you call him ? *Partridge*, the Father of the the little Child which you found in your Bed.’

Mr. *Allworthy* express great Surprise at this Account, and the Captain as great at his Ignorance of it : For he said, he had known it above a Month, and at length recollect ed with much Difficulty that he was told it by Mrs. *Wilkins*.

Upon this, *Wilkins* was immediately summoned, who having confirmed what the Captain had said, was by Mr. *Allworthy*, by and with the Captain’s Advice, dispatched to *Little Baddington* to inform herself of the Truth of the Fact : For the Captain express great Dislike at all hasty Proceedings in criminal Matters, and said he would

would by no means have Mr. *Allworthby* take any Resolution either to the Prejudice of the Child or its Father, before he was satisfied that the latter was guilty : For tho' he had privately satisfied himself of this from one of *Partridge's* Neighbours, yet he was too generous to give any such Evidence to Mr. *Allworthby*.

C H A P. VI.

The Trial of Partridge, the Schoolmaster, for Incontinency ; The Evidence of his Wife ; A short Reflection on the Wisdom of our Law ; with other grave Matters, which those will like best who understand them most.

IT may be wondered that a Story so well known, and which had furnished so much Matter of Conversation, should never have been mentioned to Mr. *Allworthby* himself, who was perhaps the only Person in that Country who had never heard of it.

To account in some measure for this to the Reader, I think proper to inform him that there was no one in the Kingdom less interested in opposing that Doctrine con-
cerning

cerning the Meaning of the Word Charity, which hath been seen in the preceding Chapter, than our good Man. Indeed, he was equally intitled to this Virtue in either Sense: For as no Man was ever more sensible of the Wants, or more ready to relieve the Distresses of others, so none could be more tender of their Characters, or flowner to believe any thing to their Disadvantage.

Scandal, therefore, never found any Access to his Table: For as it hath been long since observed that you may know a Man by his Companions; so I will venture to say, that by attending to the Conversation at a great Man's Table, you may satisfy yourself of his Religion, his Politics, his Taste, and indeed of his entire Disposition: For tho' a few odd Fellows will utter their own Sentiments in all Places, yet much the greater Part of Mankind have enough of the Courtier to accommodate their Conversation to the Taste and Inclination of their Superiors.

But to return to Mrs. *Wilkins*, who having executed her Commission with great Dispatch, tho' at fifteen Miles Distance, brought back such a Confirmation of the Schoolmaster's Guilt, that Mr. *Allworthy* deter-

determined to send for the Criminal, and examine him *viva voce*. Mr. *Partridge*, therefore, was summoned to attend, in order to his Defence (if he could make any) against this Accusation.

At the Time appointed, before Mr. *Allworthy* himself, at *Paradise-Hall*, came as well the said *Partridge*, with *Anne* his Wife, as Mrs. *Wilkins*, his Accuser.

And now Mr. *Allworthy* being seated in the Chair of Justice, Mr. *Partridge* was brought before him. Having heard his Accusation from the Mouth of Mrs. *Wilkins*, he pleaded, Not guilty, making many vehement Protestations of his Innocence.

Mrs. *Partridge* was then examined, who, after a modest Apology for being obliged to speak the Truth against her Husband, related all the Circumstances with which the Reader hath already been acquainted; and at last concluded with her Husband's Confession of his Guilt.

Whether she had forgiven him or no, I will not venture to determine: But it is certain, she was an unwilling Witness in this Cause, and it is probable, from certain other

ther Reasons would never have been brought to depose as she did, had not Mrs. *Wilkins*, with great Art, fished all out of her, at her own House, and had she not indeed made Promises in Mr. *Allworthy's* Name, that the Punishment of her Husband should not be such as might any wise affect his Family.

Partridge still persisted in asserting his Innocence, tho' he admitted he had made the above mentioned Confession; which he however endeavoured to account for, by protesting that he was forced into it by the continued Importunity she used, who vowed, that as she was sure of his Guilt, she would never leave tormenting him till he had owned it, and faithfully promised, that in such Case, she would never mention it to him, more. Hence, he said, he had been induced falsely to confess himself guilty, tho' he was innocent; and that he believed he should have confess a Murder from the same Motive.

Mrs. *Partridge* could not bear this Impputation with Patience; and having no other Remedy, in the present Place but Tears, she called forth a plentiful Assistance from them, and then addressing herself to Mr. *Allworthy*, she said; (or rather cried) ‘ May

it please your Worship, there never was
any poor Woman so injured as I am by
that base Man : For this is not the only
Instance of his Falshood to me. No, may
it please your Worship, he hath injured
my Bed many's the good time and often.
I could have put up with his Drunkennes
and Neglect of his Business, if he had not
broke one of the sacred *Commandiments*.
Besides, if it had been out of Doors I had
not mattered it so much ; but with my
own Servant, in my own House, under
my own Roof ; to defile my own chaste
Bed, which to be sure he hath with his
beastly stinking Whores. Yes, you Vil-
lain, you have defiled my own Bed, you
have ; and then you have charged me with
bullocking you into owning the Truth. It
is very likelly, an't please your Worship,
that I should *bullock* him.—I have Marks
enow about my Body to shew of his Cru-
elty to me. If you had been a Man, you
Villain, you would have scorned to injure
a Woman in that Manner. But you an't
half a Man, you know it.—Nor have you
been half a Husband to me. You need
run after Whores, you need, when I'm
sure—And since he provokes me, I
am ready, an't please your Worship, to
take my bodily Oath, that I found them
a-bed

' a-bed together. What, you have forgot,
 ' I suppose, when you beat me into a Fit,
 ' and made the Blood run down my Fore-
 ' head, because I only civilly taxed you
 ' with your Adultery ! but I can prove it by
 ' all my Neighbours. You have almost
 ' broke my Heart, you have, you have."

Here Mr. *Allworthy* interrupted, and begged her to be pacified, promising her that she should have Justice ; then turning to *Partridge*, who stood aghast, one half of his Wits being hurried away by Surprise and the other half by Fear, he said, he was sorry to see there was so wicked a Man in the World. He assured him, that his prevaricating and lying backward and forward was a great Aggravation of his Guilt : For which, the only Attonement he could make was by Confession and Repentance. He exhorted him, therefore, to begin by immediately confessing the Fact, and not to persist in denying what was so plainly proved against him, even by his own Wife.

Here, Reader, I beg your Patience a Moment, while I make a just Compliment to the great Wisdom and Sagacity of our Law, which refuses to admit the Evidence of a Wife for or against her Husband. This, says

says a certain learned Author, who, I believe, was never quoted before in any but a Law-book, would be the Means of creating an eternal Dissention between them. It would, indeed, be the Means of much Perjury, and of much Whipping, Fining, Imprisoning, Transporting, and Hanging.

Partridge stood a while silent, till being bid to speak, he said, he had already spoken the Truth, and appealed to Heaven for his Innocence, and lastly, to the Girl herself, whom he desired his Worship immediately to send for; for he was ignorant, or at least pretended to be so, that she had left that Part of the Country.

Mr. *Allworthy*, whose natural Love of Justice, joined to his Coolness of Temper, made him always a most patient Magistrate in hearing all the Witnesses which an accused Person could produce in his Defence, agreed to defer his final Determination of this Matter, till the Arrival of *Jenny*, for whom he immediately dispatched a Messenger; and then having recommended Peace between *Partridge* and his Wife (tho' he addressed himself chiefly to the wrong Person) he appointed them to attend again the third

Day : For he had sent *Jenny* a whole Day's Journey from his own House.

At the appointed Time the Parties all assembled, when the Messenger returning brought word, that *Jenny* was not to be found : For that she had left her Habitation a few Days before, in company with a recruiting Officer.

Mr. *Allworthy* then declared, that the Evidence of such a Slut as she appeared to be, would have deserved no Credit ; but he said he could not help thinking that had she been present, and would have declared the Truth, she must have confirmed what so many Circumstances, together with his own Confession, and the Declaration of his Wife, that she had caught her Husband in the Fact, did sufficiently prove. He therefore once more exhorted *Partridge* to confess ; but he still avowing his Innocence, Mr. *Allworthy* declared himself satisfied of his Guilt, and that he was too bad a Man to receive any Encouragement from him. He therefore deprived him of his Annuity, and recommended Repentance to him, on account of another World, and Industry to maintain himself and his Wife in this.

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There were not, perhaps, many more unhappy Persons, than poor *Partridge*. He had lost the best Part of his Income by the Evidence of his Wife, and, yet was daily upbraided by her for having, among other Things, been the Occasion of depriving her of that Benefit; but such was his Fortune, and he was obliged to submit to it.

Tho' I called him, poor *Partridge*, in the last Paragraph, I would have the Reader rather impute that Epithet to the Compassion in my Temper, than conceive it to be any Declaration of his Innocence. Whether he was innocent or not, will perhaps appear hereafter; but if the Historic-Muse hath entrusted me with any Secrets, I will by no means be guilty of discovering them till she shall give me leave.

Here therefore, the Reader must suspend his Curiosity. Certain it is, that whatever was the Truth of the Case, there was Evidence more than sufficient to convict him before *Allworthy*; indeed much less would have satisfied a Bench of Justices on an Order of Bastardy; and yet, notwithstanding the Positiveness of Mrs. *Partridge*, who would have taken the Sacrament upon the Matter,

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there is a Possibility that the Schoolmaster was entirely innocent: For tho' it appeared clear, on comparing the Time when *Jenny* departed from *Little Baddington*, with that of her Delivery, that she had there conceived this Infant, yet it by no means followed, of Necessity, that *Partridge* must have been its Father: For, to omit other Particulars, there was in the same House a Lad near Eighteen, between whom, and *Jenny*, there had subsisted sufficient Intimacy to found a reasonable Suspicion; and yet, so blind is Jealousy, this Circumstance never once entered into the Head of the enraged Wife.

Whether *Partridge* repented or not, according to Mr. *Allworthy's* Advice, is not so apparent. Certain it is, that his Wife repented heartily of the Evidence she had given against him; especially when she found Mrs. *Deborah* had deceived her, and refused to make any Application to Mr. *Allworthy* on her Behalf. She had, however, somewhat better Success with Mrs. *Blifil*, who was, as the Reader must have perceived, a much better-tempered Woman; and very kindly undertook to solicit her Brother to restore the Annuity. In which, tho' Good-nature might have some Share, yet a stronger

stronger and more natural Motive will appear in the next Chapter.

These Solicitations were nevertheless unsuccessful: For tho' Mr. *Allworthy* did not think, with some late Writers, that Mercy consists only in punishing Offenders; yet he was as far from thinking that it is proper to this excellent Quality to pardon great Criminals wantonly, without any Reason whatever. Any Doubtfulness of the Fact, or any Circumstance of Mitigation was never disregarded; but the Petitions of an Offender, or the Intercessions of others, did not in the least affect him. In a word, he never pardoned, because the Offender himself, or his Friends, were unwilling that he should be punished.

Partridge and his Wife were therefore both obliged to submit to their Fate; which was indeed severe enough: For so far was he from doubling his Industry on the account of his lessened Income, that he did in a manner abandon himself to despair; and as he was by Nature indolent, that Vice now increased upon him, by which means he lost the little School he had; so that neither his Wife nor himself would have had any Bread to eat, had not the Charity of some good Christian inter-

posed, and provided them with what was just sufficient for their Sustenance.

As this Support was conveyed to them by an unknown Hand, they imagined, and so, I doubt not, will the Reader, that Mr. *Allworthy* himself was their secret Benefactor; who, though he would not openly encourage Vice, could yet privately relieve the Distresses of the Vicious themselves, when these became too exquisite and disproportionate to their Merit. In which Light, their Wretchedness appeared now to Fortune herself; for she at length took pity on this miserable Couple, and considerably lessened the wretched State of *Partridge*, by putting a final end to that of his Wife, who soon after caught the Small-Pox, and died.

The Justice which Mr. *Allworthy* had executed on *Partridge*, at first met with universal Approbation; but no sooner had he felt its Consequences, than his Neighbours began to relent, and to compassionate his Case; and presently after, to blame that as Rigour and Severity, which they before called Justice. They now exclaimed against punishing in cold Blood, and sang forth the Praises of Mercy and Forgiveness.

These

These Cries were considerably increased by the Death of Mrs. *Partridge*, which, tho' owing to the Distemper above mentioned which is no Consequence of Poverty or Distress, many were not ashamed to impute to Mr. *Allworthy's* Severity, or, as they now termed it, Cruelty.

Partridge, having now lost his Wife, his School, and his Annuity, and the unknown Person having now discontinued the last-mentioned Charity, resolved to change the Scene, and left the Country, where he was in Danger of starving with the universal Compassion of all his Neighbours.

C H A P. VII.

A short Sketch of that Felicity which prudent Couples may extract from Hatred; with a short Apology for those People who overlook Imperfections in their Friends.

THO' the Captain had effectually demolished poor *Partridge*, yet had he not reaped the Harvest he hoped for, which was to turn the Foundling out of Mr. *Allworthy's* House.

On the contrary, that Gentleman grew every Day fonder of little *Tommy*, as if he intended to counterbalance his Severity to the Father with extraordinary Fondness and Affection towards the Son.

This a good deal soured the Captain's Temper, as did all the other daily Instances of Mr. *Allworthy*'s Generosity : For he looked on all such Largeesses to be Diminutions of his own Wealth.

In this, we have said, he did not agree with his Wife ; nor indeed, in any thing else : For tho' an Affection placed on the Understanding is by many wise Persons thought much more durable than that which is founded on Beauty, yet it happened otherwise in the present Case. Nay, the Understandings of this Couple were their principal Bone of Contention, and one great Cause of many Quarrels which from time to time arose between them ; and which at last ended, on the Side of the Lady, in a sovereign Contempt for her Husband, and on the Husband's, in an utter Abhorrence of his Wife.

As

As these had both exercised their Talents chiefly in the Study of Divinity, this was, from their first Acquaintance, the most common Topic of Conversation between them. The Captain, like a well-bred Man, had, before Marriage, always given up his Opinion to that of the Lady ; and this, not in the clumsy, awkward Manner of a conceited Blockhead, who, while he civilly yields to a Superior in an Argument, is desirous of being still known to think himself in the Right. The Captain, on the contrary, tho' one of the proudest Fellows in the World, so absolutely yielded the Victory to his Antagonist, that she, who had not the least Doubt of his Sincerity, retired always from the Dispute with an Admiration of her own Understanding, and a Love for him.

But tho' this Complaisance to one whom the Captain thoroughly despised, was not so uneasy to him, as it would have been, had any Hopes of Preferment made it necessary to shew the same Submission to a Ho~~o~~^ol~~o~~^oly, or to some other of great Reputation in the Science, yet even this cost him too much to be endured without some Motive. Extrimony, therefore, having removed all

132. *The History of Book II.*
Motives, he grew weary of this Condescension, and began to treat the Opinions of his Wife with that Haughtiness and Insolence, which none but those who deserve some Contempt themselves can bestow, and those only who deserve no Contempt can bear.

When the first Torrent of Tenderness was over, and when in the calm and long Interval between the Fits, Reason began to open the Eyes of the Lady, and she saw this Alteration of Behaviour in the Captain, who at length answered all her Arguments only with Pish and Pshaw, she was far from enduring the Indignity with a tame Submission. Indeed, it at first so highly provoked her, that it might have produced some tragical Event, had it not taken a more harmless Turn, by filling her with the utmost Contempt for her Husband's Understanding, which somewhat qualified her Hatred towards him; tho' of this likewise, she had a pretty moderate Share.

The Captain's Hatred to her was of a purer Kind: For as to any Imperfections in her Knowledge or Understanding, he no more despised her for them than for her not being six Feet high. In his Opinion of the female Sex, he exceeded the Moroseness of

Aristotle himself. He looked on a Woman as on an Animal of domestic Use, of somewhat higher Consideration than a Cat, since her Offices were of rather more Importance; but the Difference between these two, was in his Estimation so small, that in his Marriage contracted with Mr. *Allworthy's* Lands and Tenements, it would have been pretty equal which of them he had taken into the Bargain. And yet so tender was his Pride, that it felt the Contempt which his Wife now began to express towards him; and this, added to the Surfeit he had before taken of her Love, created in him a Degree of Disgust and Abhorrence, perhaps hardly to be exceeded.

One Situation only of the married State is excluded from Pleasure; and that is, a State of Indifference; but as many of my Readers, I hope, know what an exquisite Delight there is in conveying Pleasure to a beloved Object, so some few, I am afraid, may have experienced the Satisfaction of tormenting one we hate. It is, I apprehend, to come at this latter Pleasure, that we see both Sexes often give up that Ease in Marriage, which they might otherwise possess, tho' their Mate was never so disagreeable to them. Hence the Wife often puts an Fit.

Fits of Love and Jealousy, nay, even denies herself any Pleasure, to disturb and prevent those of her Husband ; and he again, in return, puts frequent Restraints on himself, and stays at home in Company which he dislikes, in order to confine his Wife to what she equally detests. Hence too must flow those Tears which a Widow sometimes so plentifully sheds over the Ashes of a Husband with whom she led a Life of constant Disquiet and Turbulency, and whom now she can never hope to torment any more.

But if ever any Couple enjoyed this Pleasure, it was at present experienced by the Captain and his Lady. It was always a sufficient Reason to either of them to be obstinate in any Opinion, that the other had previously asserted the contrary. If the one proposed any Amusement, the other constantly objected to it. They never loved or hated, commended or abused the same Person. And for this Reason, as the Captain looked with an evil Eye on the little Foundling, his Wife began now to care for it almost equally with her own Child.

The Reader will be apt to conceive, that this Behaviour between the Husband and Wife

Wife did not greatly contribute to Mr. *Allworthy's* Repose, as it tended so little to that serene Happiness which he had proposed to all three, from this Alliance; but the Truth is, though he might be a little disappointed in his sanguine Expectations, yet he was far from being acquainted with the whole Matter: For, as the Captain was, from certain obvious Reasons, much on his Guard before him, the Lady was obliged, for fear of her Brother's Displeasure, to pursue the same Conduct. In fact, it is possible for a third Person to be very intimate, nay even to live long in the same House, with a married Couple, who have any tolerable Discretion, and not even guess at the four Sentiments which they bear to each other: For though the whole Day may be sometimes too short for Hatred, as well as for Love; yet the many Hours which they naturally spend together, apart from all Observers, supply People of tolerable Moderation with such ample Opportunity for the Enjoyment of either Passion, that, if they love, they can support being a few Hours in Company, without toying, or if they hate, without spitting in each others Faces.

It is possible, however, that Mr. *Allworthy* saw enough to render him a little uneasy;

easy ; for we are not always to conclude, that a wise Man is not hurt, because he doth not cry out and lament himself, like those of a childish or effeminate Temper. But indeed it is possible he might see some Faults in the Captain, without any Uneasiness at all : For Men of true Wisdom and Goodness are contented to take Persons and Things as they are, without complaining of their Imperfections, or attempting to amend them. They can see a Fault in a Friend, a Relation, or an Acquaintance, without ever mentioning it to the Parties themselves, or to any others ; and this often without the least lessening their Affection. Indeed unless great Discernment be tempered with this overlooking Disposition, we ought never to contract Friendship but with a Degree of Folly which we can deceive : For I hope my Friends will pardon me, when I declare I know none of them without a Fault ; and I should be sorry if I could imagine I had any Friend who could not see mine. Forgiveness, of this Kind, we give and demand in Turn. It is an Exercise of Friendship, and, perhaps, none of the least pleasant. And this Forgiveness we must bestow, without Desire of Amendment. There is, perhaps, no surer Mark of Folly, than an Attempt to correct the natural

natural Infirmities of those we love. The finest Composition of human Nature, as well as the finest China, may have a Flaw in it; and this, I am afraid, in either Case, is equally incurable; though, nevertheless, the Pattern may remain of the highest Value.

Upon the whole then, Mr. *Allworthy*, certainly saw some Imperfections in the Captain; but, as this was a very artful Man, and eternally upon his Guard before him, these appeared to him no more than Blemishes in a good Character; which his Goodness made him overlook, and his Wisdom prevented him from discovering to the Captain himself. Very different would have been his Sentiments, had he discovered the whole; which, perhaps, would, in Time, have been the Case, had the Husband and Wife long continued this Kind of Behaviour to each other; but this kind Fortune took effectual Means to prevent, by forcing the Captain to do that which rendered him again dear to his Wife, and restored all her Tenderness and Affection towards him.

C H A P. VIII.

A Receipt to regain the lost Affections of a Wife, which hath never been known to fail in the most desperate Cases.

THE Captain was made large Amends for the unpleasant Minutes which he passed in the Conversation of his Wife (and which were as few as he could contrive to make them) by the pleasant Meditations he enjoyed when alone.

These Meditations were entirely employed on Mr. Allworthy's Fortune ; for first, he exercised much Thought in calculating, as well as he could, the exact Value of the whole ; which Calculations he often saw Occasion to alter in his own Favour : And secondly, and chiefly, he pleased himself with intended Alterations in the House and Gardens, and in projecting many other Schemes, as well for Improvement of the Estate, as of the Grandeur of the Place. For this Purpose he applied himself to the Studies of Architecture and Gardening, and read over many Books on both these Subjects ; for these Sciences, indeed, employed his whole Time,

Time, and formed his only Amusement. He at last completed a most excellent Plan; and very sorry we are, that it is not in our Power to present it to our Reader, since even the Luxury of the present Age, I believe, would hardly match it. It had, indeed, in a superlative Degree, the two principal Ingredients which serve to recommend all great and noble Designs of this Nature: For it required an immoderate Expence to execute, and a vast Length of Time to bring it to any Sort of Perfection. The former of these, the immense Wealth of which the Captain supposed Mr. *Allworthy* possessed, and which he thought himself sure of inheriting, promised very effectually to supply; and the latter, the Soundness of his own Constitution, and his Time of Life, which was only what is called Middle Age, removed all Apprehension of his not living to accomplish.

Nothing was wanting to enable him to enter upon the immediate Execution of this Plan, but the Death of Mr. *Allworthy*; in calculating which he had employed much of his own Algebra; besides purchasing every Book extant that treats of the Value of Lives, Reversions, &c. From all which, he satisfied himself, that as he had every Day

Day a Chance of this happening, so had he more than an even Chance of its happening within a few Years.

But while the Captain was one Day busied in deep Contemplations of this Kind, one of the most unlucky, as well as unseasonable Accidents, happened to him. The utmost Malice of Fortune could indeed have contrived nothing so cruel, so mal-a-propos, so absolutely destructive to all his Schemes. In short, not to keep the Reader in long Suspence, just at the very Instant when his Heart was exulting in Meditations on the Happiness which would accrue to him by Mr. *Allworthy's* Death, he himself—died of an Apoplexy.

This unfortunately befel the Captain as he was taking his Evening Walk by himself, so that no Body was present to lend him any Assistance, if indeed any Assistance could have preserved him. He took, therefore, Measure of that Proportion of Soil, which was now become adequate to all his future Purposes, and he lay dead on the Ground, a great (though not a living) Example of the Truth of that Observation of *Horace*:

Tu

- Tu secanda marmora
- Locas sub ipsum funus : et sepulchri
- Immemor, struis domos.

Which Sentiment, I shall thus give to the English Reader : ‘ You provide the noblest Materials for Building, when a Pick-ax and a Spade are only necessary ; and build Houses of five hundred by a hundred Feet, forgetting that of six by two.’

C H A P. IX.

A Proof of the Infallibility of the foregoing Receipt, in the Lamentations of the Widow; with other suitable Decorations of Death, such as Physicians, &c. and an Epitaph in the true Stile.

M R. Allworthy, his Sister, and another Lady, were assembled at the accustomed Hour in the Supper Room, where having waited a considerable Time longer than usual, Mr. Allworthy first declared he began to grow uneasy at the Captain’s Stay ; (for he was always most punctual at his Meals,) and gave Orders that the Bell should be rung without the Doors, and especially

All these Summons proving ineffectual, (for the Captain had, by perverse Accident, betaken himself to a new Walk that Evening) Mrs. *Blifil* declared she was seriously frightned. Upon which the other Lady, who was one of her most intimate Acquaintance, and who well knew the true State of her Affections, endeavoured all she could to pacify her ; telling her—To be sure she could not help being uneasy ; but that she should hope the best. That, perhaps, the Sweetness of the Evening had enticed the Captain to go farther than his usual Walk, or he might be detained at some Neighbour's. Mrs. *Blifil* answered, No ; she was sure some Accident had befallen him ; for that he would never stay out without sending her Word, as he must know how uneasy it would make her. The other Lady, having no other Arguments to use, betook herself to the Entreaties usual on such Occasions, and begged her not to frighten herself, for it might be of very ill Consequence to her own Health ; and, filling out a very large Glass of Wine, advised, and at last prevailed with, her to drink it.

Mr.

Mr. *Allworthy* now returned into the Par-lour ; for he had been himself in Search af-ter the Captain. His Countenance suffi-ciently shewed the Consternation he was under, which indeed had a good deal de-prived him of Speech ; but as Grief operates varioufly on different Minds, so the same Apprehension which depressed his Voice, elevated that of Mrs. *Blifil*. She now began to bewail herself in very bitter Terms, and Floods of Tears accompanied her Lamentations, which the Lady, her Companion, declared she could not blame ; but at the same Time dissuaded her from indulging ; attempting to moderate the Grief of her Friend, by philosophical Observations on the many Dis-appointments to which human Life is daily subje^ct, which, she said, was a sufficient Consideration to fortify our Minds against any Accidents, how sudden or terrible so-ever. She said, her Brother's Example ought to teach her Patience, who, though indeed he could not be supposed as much concerned as herself, yet was doubtless very uneasy, though his Resignation to the Di-vine Will had restrained his Grief within due Bounds.

' Mention not my Brother,' said Mrs. *Blifil*, ' I alone am the Object of your Pity.'
' What are the Terrors of Friendship to what

• what a Wife feels on these Occasions? O
 • he is lost! Somebody hath murdered him
 • —I shall never see him more'—Here
 a Torrent of Tears had the same Conse-
 quence with what the Suppression had oc-
 casioned to Mr. *Allworthy*, and she re-
 mained silent.

At this Interval, a Servant came running in, out of Breath, and cried out, the Cap-
 tain was found; and, before he could pro-
 ceed farther, he was followed by two more,
 bearing the dead Body between them.

Here the curious Reader may observe another Diversity in the Operations of Grief: For as Mr. *Allworthy* had been before silent, from the same Cause which had made his Sister vociferous; so did the present Sight, which drew Tears from the Gentleman, put an entire Stop to those of the Lady; who first gave a violent Scream, and presently after fell into a Fit.

The Room was soon full of Servants, some of whom, with the Lady visitant, were employed in Care of the Wife, and others, with Mr. *Allworthy*, assisted in carrying off the Captain to a warm Bed, where every Method was tried, in order to restore him to Life.

And

And glad should we be, could we inform the Reader that both these Bodies had been attended with equal Success; for those who undertook the Care of the Lady, succeeded so well, that after the Fit had continued a decent Time, she again revived, to their great Satisfaction; but as to the Captain, all Experiments of bleeding, chafing, dropping, &c. proved ineffectual. Death, that inexorable Judge, had passed Sentence on him, and refused to grant him a Reprieve, though two Doctors who arrived, and were see'd at one and the same Instant, were his Council.

These two Doctors, whom, to avoid any malicious Applications, we shall distinguish by the Names of Dr. Y. and Dr. Z. having felt his Pulse; to wit, Dr. Y. his right Arm, and Dr. Z. his left, both agreed that he was absolutely dead; but as to the Distemper, or Cause of his Death, they differed, Dr. Y. holding that he had died of an Apoplexy, and Dr. Z. of an Epilepsy.

Hence arose a Dispute between the learned Men, in which each delivered the Reasons of their several Opinions. These were of such equal Force, that they served both to

confirm either Doctor in his own Sentiments, and made not the least Impression on his Adversary.

To say the Truth, every Physician, almost, hath his favourite Disease, to which he ascribes all the Victories obtained over human Nature. The Gout, the Rheumatism, the Stone, the Gravel, and the Consumption, have all their several Patrons in the Faculty; and none more than the nervous Fever, or the Fever on the Spirits. And here we may account for those Disagreements in Opinion, concerning the Cause of a Patient's Death; which sometimes occur between the most learned of the College; and which have greatly surprized that Part of the World who have been ignorant of the Fact we have above asserted.

The Reader may, perhaps, be surprized, that instead of endeavouring to revive the Patient, the learned Gentlemen should fall immediately into a Dispute on the Occasion of his Death; but in reality, all such Experiments had been made before their Arrival: For the Captain was put into a warm Bed, had his Veins scarified, his Forehead chafed, and all Sorts of strong Drops applied to his Lips and his Nostrils.

The

The Physicians, therefore, finding themselves anticipated in every thing they ordered, were at a Loss how to employ that Portion of Time which it is usual and decent to remain for their Fee, and were therefore necessitated to find some Subject or other for Discourse; and what could more naturally present itself than that before-mentioned

Our Doctors were about to take their Leave, when Mr. *Allworthy*, having given over the Captain, and acquiesced in the divine Will, began to enquire after his Sister, whom he desired them to visit before their Departure.

This Lady was now recovered of her Fit, and, to use the common Phrase, as well as could be expected for one in her Condition. The Doctors, therefore, all previous Ceremonies being complied with, as this was a new Patient, attended, according to Desire, and laid hold on each of her Hands, as they had before done on those of the Corpse.

The Case of the Lady was in the other Extreme from that of her Husband; for,

There is nothing more unjust, than the vulgar Opinion by which Physicians are misrepresented, as Friends to Death. On the contrary, I believe, if the Number of those who recover by Physic could be opposed to that of the Martyrs to it, the former would rather exceed the latter. Nay, some are so cautious on this Head, that, to avoid a Possibility of killing the Patient, they abstain from all Methods of curing, and prescribe nothing but what can neither do good nor harm. I have heard some of these, with great Gravity, deliver it as a Maxim, That Nature should be left to do her own Work, while the Physician stands by, as it were to clap her on the Back, and encourage her when she doth well.

So little then did our Doctors delight in Death, that they discharged the Corpse after a single Fee; but they were not so disgusted with their living Patient; concerning whose Case they immediately agreed, and fell to prescribing with great Diligence.

Whether, as the Lady had at first persuaded her Physicians to believe her ill, they had

had now, in return, persuaded her to believe herself so, I will not determine; but she continued a whole Month with all the Decorations of Sickness. During this Time she was visited by Physicians, attended by Nurses, and received constant Messages from her Acquaintance, to enquire after her Health.

At length, the decent Time for Sickness and immoderate Grief being expired, the Doctors were discharged, and the Lady began to see Company; being altered only from what she was before by that Colour of Sadness in which she had dressed her Person and Countenance.

The Captain was now interred, and might, perhaps, have already made a large Progress towards Oblivion, had not the Friendship of Mr. Allworthy taken Care to preserve his Memory, by the following Epitaph, which was written by a Man of as great Genius as Integrity, and one who perfectly well knew the Captain.

Here lies,
In Expectation of a joyful Rising,
The Body of
Captain JOHN BLIFIL.
LONDON
had the Honour of his Birth,
OXFORD
of his Education.
His Parts
were an Honour to his Profession
and to his Country.
His Life to his Religion
and human Nature.
He was a dutiful Son,
a tender Husband,
an affectionate Father,
a sincere Friend,
a devout Christian,
and a good Man.
His inconsolable Widow
hath erected this Stone,
The Monument of
His Virtues,
and of Her Affection.

THE

THE
HISTORY
OF A
FOUNDLING.

BOOK III.

Containing the most memorable Transactions which passed in the Family of Mr. All-worthy, from the Time when Tommy Jones arrived at the Age of Fourteen, till he attained the Age of Seventeen. In this Book the Reader may pick up some Hints concerning the Education of Children.

CHAP. I.

Containing little or nothing.

THE Reader will be pleased to remember, that at the Beginning of the Second Book of this History, we gave him a Hint of our Intention to pass over several

large Periods of Time, in which nothing happened worthy of being recorded in a Chronicle of this Kind.

In so doing, we do not only consult our own Dignity and Ease; but the Good and Advantage of the Reader: For besides, that by these Means we prevent him from throwing away his Time in reading without either Pleasure or Emolument, we give him at all such Seasons an Opportunity of employing that wonderful Sagacity, of which he is Master, by filling up these vacant Spaces of Time with his own Conjectures; for which Purpose, we have taken care to qualify him in the preceding Pages.

For Instance, what Reader but knows that Mr. *Allworthy* felt at first for the Loss of his Friend, those Emotions of Grief, which on such Occasions enter into all Men whose Hearts are not composed of Flint, or their Heads of as solid Materials? Again, what Reader doth not know that Philosophy and Religion, in time, moderated, and at last extinguished this Grief? The former of these, teaching the Folly and Vanity of it, and the latter, correcting it, as unlawful, and at the same time assuaging it by raising future Hopes and Assurances which enable a strong

strong and religious Mind to take leave of a Friend on his Death-bed with little less Indifference than if he was preparing for a long Journey ; and indeed with little less Hope of seeing him again.

Nor can the judicious Reader be at a greater Loss on Account of Mrs. Bridges *Bifil*, who, he may be assured, conducted herself through the whole Season in which Grief is to make its Appearance on the Outside of the Body, with the strictest Regard to all the Rules of Custom and Decency, suiting the Alterations of her Countenance to the several Alterations of her Habit : For as this changed from Weeds to Black, from Black to Grey, from Grey to White, so did her Countenance change from Dismal to Sorrowful, from Sorrowful to Sad, and from Sad to Serious, till the Day came in which she was allowed to return to her former Serenity.

We have mentioned these two as Examples only of the Task which may be imposed on Readers of the lowest Class. Much higher and harder Exercises of Judgment and Penetration may reasonably be expected from the upper Graduates in Criticism. Many notable Discoveries will, I

doubt not, be made by such, of the Transactions which happened in the Family of our worthy Man, during all the Years which we have thought proper to pass over: For tho' nothing worthy of a Place in this History occurred within that Period; yet did several Incidents happen, of equal Importance with those reported by the daily and weekly Historians of the Age, in reading which, great Numbers of Persons consume a considerable Part of their Time, very little, I am afraid, to their Emolument. Now, in the Conjectures here proposed, some of the most excellent Faculties of the Mind may be employed to much Advantage, since it is a more useful Capacity to be able to foretel the Actions of Men in any Circumstance from their Characters; than to judge of their Characters from their Actions. The former, I own, requires the greater Penetration; but may be accomplished by true Sagacity, with no less Certainty than the latter.

As we are sensible that much the greatest Part of our Readers are very eminently possessed of this Quality, we have left them a Space of twelve Years to exert it in; and shall now bring forth our Hero, at about fourteen Years of Age, not questioning that many

many have been long impatient to be introduced to his Acquaintance.

C H A P. II.

The Hero of this great History appears with very bad Omens. A little Tale, of so low a Kind, that some may think it not worth their Notice. A Word or two concerning a Squire, and more relating to a Game-keeper, and a Schoolmaster.

AS we determined when we first sat down to write this History, to flatter no Man; but to guide our Pen throughout by the Directions of Truth, we are obliged to bring our Hero on the Stage in a much more disadvantageous Manner than we could wish; and to declare honestly, even at his first Appearance, that it was the universal Opinion of all Mr. Allworthy's Family, that he was certainly born to be hanged.

Indeed, I am sorry to say, there was too much Reason for this Conjecture. The Lad having, from his earliest Years, discovered a Propensity to many Vices, and especially to one, which hath as direct a Tendency as any other to that Fate, which we have just now

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observed to have been prophetically denounced against him. He had been already convicted of three Robberies, *viz.* of robbing an Orchard, of stealing a Duck out of a Farmer's Yard, and of picking Master *Blifil's* Pocket of a Ball.

The Vices of this young Man were moreover heightened by the disadvantageous Light in which they appeared, when opposed to the Virtues of Master *Blifil*, his Companion: A Youth of so different a Cast from little *Jones*, that not only the Family, but all the Neighbourhood resounded his Praises. He was indeed a Lad of a remarkable Disposition; sober, discreet, and pious beyond his Age. Qualities, which gained him the Love of every one who knew him, while *Tom Jones* was universally disliked, and many expressed their Wonder that Mr. *Allworthy* would suffer such a Lad to be educated with his Nephew, lest the Morals of the latter should be corrupted by his Example.

An Incident which happened about this Time, will set the Characters of these two Lads, more fairly before the discerning Reader, than is in the Power of the longest Dissertation.

Tom

Tom Jones, who, bad as he is, must serve for the Heroe of this History, had only one Friend among all the Servants of the Family ; for, as to Mrs. Wilkins, she had long since given him up, and was perfectly reconciled to her Mistress. This Friend was the Game-keeper, a Fellow of a loose kind of Disposition, and who was thought not to entertain much stricter Notions concerning the Difference of *meum* and *tuum*, than the young Gentleman himself. And hence, this Friendship gave Occasion to many sarcastical Remarks among the Domestics, most of which were either Proverbs before, or at least are become so now ; and indeed, the Wit of them all may be comprised in that short Latin Proverb, “ *Noscitur a socio,* ” which, I think, is thus expressed in English, “ You may know him by the Company he keeps.”

To say the Truth, some of that atrocious Wickedness in *Jones*, of which we have just mentioned three Examples, might perhaps be derived from the Encouragement he had received from this Fellow, who, in two or three Instances, had been what the Law calls an Accessary after the Fact. For the whole Duck, and great Part of the Apples were con-

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converted to the Use of the Game-keeper
and his Family. Tho' as *Jones* alone was
discovered, the poor Lad bore not only the
whole Smart, but the whole Blame ; both
which fell again to his Lot, on the follow-
ing Occasion. Contiguous to Mr. *All-
worthy's* Estate, was the Manor of one of
those Gentlemen, who are called *Preservers
of the Game*. This Species of Men, from
the great Severity with which they revenge
the Death of a Hare or a Partridge, might
be thought to cultivate the same Supersti-
tion with the Bannians in *India* ; many of
whom, we are told, dedicate their whole
Lives to the Preservation and Protection of
certain Animals, was it not that our *English*
Bannians, while they preserve them from
other Enemies, will most unmercifully
slaughter whole Horse-loads themselves, so
that they stand clearly acquitted of any such
heathenish Superstition.

I have, indeed, a much better Opinion of
this Kind of Men than is entertained by
some, as I take them to answer the Order
of Nature, and the good Purposes for which
they were ordained in a more ample Manner
than many others. Now, as *Horace* tells us,
that there are a Set of human Beings, who
• *Fruges*

Fruges consumere nati.

‘ Born to consume the Fruits of the Earth,’
So, I make no manner of Doubt but that
there are others
Feras consumere nati.

‘ Born to consume the Beasts of the Field,’
or, as it is commonly called, the Game;
and none, I believe, will deny, but that those
Squires fulfil this End of their Creation.

Little *Jones* went one Day a shooting
with the Game-keeper; when, happening to
spring a Covey of Partridges, near the Bor-
der of that Manor, over which Fortune, to
fulfil the wise Purposes of Nature, had planted
one of the Game-Consumers, the Birds flew
into it, and were *marked* (as it is called) by
the two Sportsmen, in some Furze Bushes,
about two or three hundred Paces beyond
Mr. *Allworthy*’s Dominions.

Mr. *Allworthy* had given the Fellow strict
Orders, on Pain of forfeiting his Place, ne-
ver to trespass on any of his Neighbours, no
more on those who were less rigid in this
Matter, than on the Lord of this Manor.

With

With regard to others, indeed, these Orders had not been always very scrupulously kept ; but as the Disposition of the Gentleman with whom the Partridges had taken sanctuary, was well known, the Game-keeper had never yet attempted to invade his Territories. Nor had he done it now, had not the younger Sportsman, who was excessively eager to pursue the flying Game, over-persuaded him ; but *Jones* being very importunate, the other, who was himself keen enough after the Sport, yielded to his Persuasions, entered the Manor, and shot one of the Partridges.

The Gentleman himself was at that time on horseback, at a little Distance from them ; and hearing the Gun go off, he immediately made towards the Place, and discovered poor *Tom* : For the Game-keeper had leapt into the thickest Part of the Furze-brake, where he had happily concealed himself.

The Gentleman having searched the Lad, and found the Partridge upon him, denounced great Vengeance, swearing he would acquaint Mr. *Allworthy*. He was as good as his Word, for he rode immediately to his House, and complained of the Treasons
on

on his Manor, in as high Terms, and as bitter Language, as if his House had been broken open, and the most valuable Furniture stole out of it. He added, that some other Person was in his Company, tho' he could not discover him: for that two Guns had been discharged almost in the same Instant. And, says he, "we have found only " this Partridge, but the Lord knows what " Mischief they have done."

At his Return home, Tom was presently convened before Mr. Allworthy. He owned the Fact, and alledged no other Excuse but what was really true, viz. that the Covey was originally sprung in Mr. Allworthy's own Manor.

Tom was then interrogated who was with him, which Mr. Allworthy declared he was resolved to know, acquainting the Culprit with the Circumstance of the two Guns, which had been deposed by the Squire and both his Servants; but Tom stoutly persisted in asserting that he was alone; yet, to say the Truth, he hesitated a little at first, which would have confirmed Mr. Allworthy's Belief, had what the Squire and his Servants said, wanted any further Confirmation.

The

The Game-keeper being a suspected Person, was now sent for, and the Question put to him ; but he, relying on the Promise which *Tom* had made him, to take all upon himself, very resolutely denied being in Company with the young Gentleman, or indeed having seen him the whole Afternoon.

Mr. *Allworthy* then turned towards *Tom*, with more than usual Anger in his Countenance, and advised him to confess who was with him ; repeating, that he was resolved to know. The Lad, however, still maintained his Resolution, and was dismissed with much Wrath by Mr. *Allworthy*, who told him, he should have to the next Morning to consider of it, when he should be questioned by another Person, and in another Manner.

Poor *Jones* spent a very melancholy Night, and the more so, as he was without his usual Companion : for Master *Blifil* was gone abroad on a Visit with his Mother. Fear of the Punishment he was to suffer was on this Occasion his least Evil ; his chief Anxiety being, lest his Constancy should fail him, and he should be brought to betray the

the Game-keeper, whose Ruin he knew must now be the Consequence. Nor did the Game-keeper pass his Time much better. He had the same Apprehensions with the Youth; for whose Honour he had likewise a much tenderer Regard than for his Skin.

In the Morning, when *Tom* attended the Reverend Mr. *Tbwackum*, the Person to whom Mr. *Allworthy* had committed the Instruction of the two Boys, he had the same Questions put to him by that Gentleman, which he had been asked the Evening before, to which he returned the same Answers. The Consequence of this was, so severe a Whipping, that it possibly fell little short of the Torture with which Confessions are in some Countries extorted from Criminals.

Tom bore his Punishment with great Resolution; and tho' his Master asked him between every Stroke, whether he would not confess, he was contented to be flead rather than betray his Friend, or break the Promise he had made. The

The Game-keeper was now relieved from his Anxiety, and Mr. *Allworthy* himself began to be concerned at Tom's Sufferings: For, besides that Mr. *Thwackum*, being highly enraged that he was not able to make the Boy say what he himself pleased, had carried his Severity much beyond the good Man's Intention, this latter began now to suspect that the Squire had been mistaken; which his extreme Eagerness and Anger seemed to make probable; and as for what the Servants had said in Confirmation of their Master's Account, he laid no great Stress upon that. Now, as Cruelty and Injustice were two Ideas, of which Mr. *Allworthy* could by no Means support the Consciousness a single Moment, he sent for Tom, and after many kind and friendly Exhortations, said, 'I am convinced, my dear Child, that my Suspicions have wronged you; I am sorry that you have been so severely punished on this Account.'—And at last gave him a little Horse to make him amends; again repeating his Sorrow for what had past.

Tom's Guilt now flew in his Face more than any Severity could make it. He could more easily bear the Lashes of *Thwackum*, than

than the Generosity of *Allworthy*. The Tears burst from his Eyes, and he fell upon his Knees, crying, ‘ Oh! Sir, you are too good to me. Indeed, you are. Indeed, I don’t deserve it.’ And at that very Instant, from the Fullness of his Heart, had almost betrayed the Secret; but the good Genius of the Game-keeper suggested to him what might be the Consequence to the poor Fellow, and this Consideration sealed his Lips.

Tbwackum did all he could to dissuade *Allworthy* from shewing any Compassion or Kindness to the Boy, saying, ‘ He had persisted in an Untruth;’ and gave some Hints, that a second Whipping might probably bring the Matter to Light.

But Mr. *Allworthy* absolutely refused to consent to the Experiment. He said, the Boy had suffered enough already, for concealing the Truth, even if he was guilty, seeing that he could have no Motive but a mistaken Point of Honour for so doing.

‘ Honour! cry’d *Tbwackum*, with some Warmth, mere Stubborness and Obstinacy! Can Honour teach any one to tell a Lie, or can any Honour exist independent of Religion?

This

This Discourse happened at Table when Dinner was just ended ; and there were present Mr. *Allworthy*, Mr. *Thwackum*, and a third Gentleman who now entered into the Debate, and whom, before we proceed any farther, we shall briefly introduce to our Reader's Acquaintance.

C H A P. III.

The Character of Mr. Square the Philosopher, and of Mr. Thwackum the Divine ; with a Dispute concerning—

THE Name of this Gentleman who had then resided some time at Mr. *Allworthy's* House, was Mr. *Square*. His natural Parts were not of the first Rate, but he had greatly improved them by a learned Education. He was deeply read in the Antients, and a profest Master of all the Works of *Plato* and *Aristotle*. Upon which great Models he had principally form'd himself, sometimes according with the Opinion of the one, and sometimes with that of the other. In Morals he was a profest *Platonist*, and in Religion he inclined to be an *Aristotelian*.

But tho' he had, as we have said, formed his Morals on the *Platonic Model*, yet he perfectly agreed with the Opinion of *Aristotle*, in considering that great Man rather in the Quality of a Philosopher or a Speculist, than as a Legislator. This Sentiment he carried a great way; indeed, so far, as to regard all Virtue as Matter of Theory only. This, it is true, he never affirmed, as I have heard, to any one; and yet upon the least Attention to his Conduct, I cannot help thinking, it was his real Opinion, as it will perfectly reconcile some Contradictions which might otherwise appear in his Character.

This Gentleman and Mr. *Tbwackum* scarce ever met without a Disputation; for their Tenets were, indeed, diametrically opposite to each other. *Square* held human Nature to be the Perfection of all Virtue, and that Vice was a Deviation from our Nature in the same Manner as Deformity of Body is. *Tbwackum*, on the contrary, maintained that the human Mind, since the Fall, was nothing but a Sink of Iniquity, till purified and redeemed by Grace. In one Point only they agreed, which was, in all their Discourses on Morality never to mention

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mention the Word *Godness*. The favourite Phrase of the former, was *the natural Beauty of Virtue*; that of the latter, was the *divine Power of Grace*. The former measured all Actions by the *unalterable Rule of Right*, and the *eternal Fitness of Things*; the latter decided all Matters by Authority; but, in doing this, he always used the Scriptures and their Commentators, as the Lawyer doth his *Coke upon Littleton*, where the Comment is of equal Authority with the Text.

After this short Introduction, the Reader will be pleased to remember, that the Parson had concluded his Speech with a triumphant Question, to which he had apprehended no Answer; viz. Can any Honour exist independent on Religion?

To this *Square* answered, that it was impossible to discourse philosophically concerning Words, till their Meaning was first established; that there were scarce any two Words of a more vague and uncertain Signification, than the two he had mentioned: For that there were almost as many different Opinions concerning Honour, as concerning Religion. But, says he, if by Honour you mean the true natural Beauty of

• of Virtue, I will maintain it may exist
 • independent of any Religion whatever.
 • Nay (added he) you yourself will allow
 • it may exist independent of all but one;
 • so will a *Mahometan*, a *Jew*, and all the
 • Maintainers of all the different Sects in
 • the World.'

Tbwackum replied, This was arguing with the usual Malice of all the Enemies to the true Church. He said, he doubted not but that all the Infidels and Hereticks in the World would, if they could, confine Honour to their own absurd Errors, and damnable Deceptions; ' But Honour, says he, is not therefore manifold, because there are many absurd Opinions about it; nor is Religion manifold, because there are various Sects and Heresies in the World. When I mention Religion, I mean the Christian Religion; and not only the Christian Religion, but the Protestant Religion; and not only the Protestant Religion, but the Church of *England*. And, when I mention Honour, I mean that Mode of divine Grace which is not only consistent with, but dependent upon, this Religion; and is consistent with, and dependent upon, no other. Now to say that the Honour I here mean, and which

‘ was, I thought, all the Honour I could be supposed to mean, will uphold, much less dictate, an Untruth, is to assert an Absurdity too shocking to be conceived.’

‘ I purposely avoided,’ says *Square*, ‘ drawing a Conclusion which I thought evident from what I have said; but if you perceived it, I am sure you have not attempted to answer it. However, to drop the Article of Religion, I think it is plain, from what you have said, that we have different Ideas of Honour; or why do we not agree in the same Terms of its Explanation? I have asserted, that true Honour and true Virtue are almost synonymous Terms, and they are both founded on the unalterable Rule of Right, and the eternal Fitness of Things; to which an Untruth being absolutely repugnant and contrary, it is certain that true Honour cannot support an Untruth. In this, therefore, I think we are agreed; but that this Honour can be said to be founded on Religion, to which it is antecedent, if by Religion be meant any positive Law—

‘ I agree,’ answered *Tbwackum*, with great Warmth, ‘ with a Man who asserts Honour

• Honour to be antecedent to Religion! —
 • Mr. *Allworthy*, did I agree—— ?
 He was proceeding, when Mr. *Allworthy* interposed; telling them very coldly, they had both mistaken his Meaning; for that he had said nothing of true Honour.—It is possible, however, he would not have easily quieted the Disputants, who were growing equally warm, had not another Matter now fallen out, which put a final End to the Conversation at present.

CHAP. IV.

Containing a necessary Apology for the Author;
and a childish Incident, which perhaps requires an Apology likewise.

BEFORE I proceed farther, I shall beg leave to obviate some Misconstructions, into which the Zeal of some few Readers may lead them; for I would not willingly give Offence to any, especially to Men who are warm in the Cause of Virtue or Religion.

I hope, therefore, no Man will, by the grossest Misunderstanding, or Perversion,

of my Meaning, misrepresent me, as endeavouring to cast any Ridicule on the greatest Perfections of Human Nature; and which do, indeed, alone purify and enoble the Heart of Man, and raise him above the Brute Creation. This, Reader, I will venture to say, (and by how much the better Man you are yourself, by so much the more will you be inclined to believe me) that I would rather have buried the Sentiments of these two Persons in eternal Oblivion, than have done any Injury to either of these glorious Causes.

On the contrary, it is with a View to their Service that I have taken upon me to record the Lives and Actions of two of their false and pretended Champions. A treacherous Friend is the most dangerous Enemy; and I will say boldly, that both Religion and Virtue have received more real Discredit from Hypocrites, than the wittiest Profligates or Infidels could ever cast upon them: Nay farther, as these two, in their Purity, are rightly called the Bands of civil Society, and are indeed the greatest of Blessings; so when poisoned and corrupted with Fraud, Pretence and Affectation, they have become the worst of civil Curses, and have enabled Men to perpetrate

trate the most cruel Mischiefs to their own Species,

Indeed, I doubt not but this Ridicule will in general be allowed; my chief Apprehension is, as many true and just Sentiments often came from the Mouths of these Persons, lest the whole should be taken together, and I should be conceived to ridicule all alike. Now the Reader will be pleased to consider, that as neither of these Men were Fools, they could not be supposed to have holden none but wrong Principles, and to have uttered nothing but Absurdities; what Injustice, therefore, must I have done to their Characters, had I selected only what was bad, and how horridly wretched and maimed must their Arguments have appeared!

Upon the whole, it is not Religion or Virtue, but the Want of them which is here exposed. Had not *Thwackum* too much neglected Virtue, and *Square* Religion, in the Composition of their several Systems; and had not both utterly discarded all natural Goodness of Heart, they had never been represented as the Objects of Derision in this History; in which we will now proceed:

This Matter, then, which put an end to the Debate mentioned in the last Chapter, was no other than a Quarrel between Master *Blifil* and *Tom Jones*, the Consequence of which had been a bloody Nose to the former; for though Master *Blifil*, notwithstanding he was the younger, was in Size above the other's Match, yet *Tom* was much his Superior at the noble Art of Boxing.

Tom, however, cautiously avoided all Engagements with that Youth: For besides that *Tommy Jones* was an inoffensive Lad amidst all his Roguery, and really loved *Blifil*; Mr. *Thwackum* being always the Second of the latter, would have been sufficient to deter him.

But well says a certain Author, No Man is wise at all Hours; it is therefore no Wonder that a Boy is not so. A Difference arising at Play between the two Lads, Master *Blifil* called *Tom* a *Beggarly Basterd*. Upon which the latter, who was somewhat passionate in his Disposition, immediately caused that Phænomenon in the Face of the former, which we have above remembred.

Master *Blifil* now, with his Blood running from his Nose, and the Tears galloping after from his Eyes, appeared before his Uncle, and the tremendous *Tbwackum*. In which Court an Indictment of Assult, Battery, and wounding, was instantly preferred against *Tom*; who in his Excuse only pleaded the Provocation, which was indeed all the Matter that Master *Blifil* had omitted.

It is indeed possible, that this Circumstance might have escaped his Memory; for, in his Reply, he positively insisted, that he had made Use of no such Appellation; adding, ‘Heaven forbid such naughty Words should ever come out of his Mouth!’

Tom, though against all Form of Law, rejoined in Affirmance of the Words. Upon which Master *Blifil* said, ‘It is no Wonder. Those who will tell one Fib, will hardly stick at another. If I had told my Master such a wicked Fib as you have done, I should be ashamed to shew my Face.’

‘What Fib, Child,’ cries *Tbwackum* pretty eagerly?

‘ Why, he told you that Nobody was with him a shooting when he killed the Partridge ; but he knows, (here he burst into a Flood of Tears) yes, he knows ; for he confessed it to me, that *Black Jack* the Game-keeper was there. Nay, he said, — Yes you did, — deny it if you can, That you would not have confess the Truth, though Master had cut you to Pieces.’

At this the Fire flashed from *Tbwackum’s* Eyes ; and he cried out in Triumph : ‘ Oh ho ! This is your mistaken Notion of Honour ! This is the Boy who was not to be whipped again !’ But Mr. *Allworthy*, with a more gentle Aspect, turned towards the Lad, and said, ‘ Is this true, Child ? How came you to persist so obstinately in a Falshood ?’

Tom said, ‘ He scorned a Lie as much as any one ; but he thought his Honour engaged him to act as he did ; for he had promised the poor Fellow to conceal him ; which,’ he said, ‘ he thought himself farther obliged to, as the Game-keeper had begged him not to go into the Gentleman’s Manor, and had at last gone himself in

Com-

• Compliance with his Persuasions. He
• said; this was the whole Truth of the
• Matter, and he would take his Oath of
• it ; and concluded with very passionately
begging Mr. *Allworthy*, ‘ to have Compa-
• on the poor Fellow’s Family, especially
‘ as he himself had been only guilty, and
‘ the other had been very difficultly pre-
• vaileed on to do what he did. ‘ Indeed Sir,’
said he, ‘ it could hardly be called a Lie
‘ that I told ; for the poor Fellow was en-
• tirely innocent of the whole Matter. I
‘ should have gone alone after the Birds;
‘ nay, I did go at first, and he only fol-
• lowed me to prevent more Mischief. Do,
‘ pray, Sir, let me be punished, take my
‘ little Horse away again; but pray, Sir,
‘ forgive poor *George*.’

Mr. *Allworthy* hesitated a few Moments,
and then dismissed the Boys, advising them
to live more friendly and peaceably toge-
ther.

the Incumbent said this would be
the last Ch'ap. V.

*The Opinions of the Divine and the Philoso-
pher concerning the two Boys; with some
Reasons for their Opinions, and other
Matters.*

IT is probable, that by disclosing this Secret, which had been communicated in the utmost Confidence to him, young Blifil preserved his Companion from a good Lashing: For the Offence of the bloody Nose would have been of itself sufficient Cause for Tbwackum to have proceeded to Correction; but now this was totally absorbed, in the Consideration of the other Matter; and with Regard to this, Mr. Allworthy declared privately, he thought the Boy deserved Reward rather than Punishment; so that Tbwackum's Hand was withheld by a general Pardon.

Tbwackum, whose Meditations were full of Birch, exclaimed against this weak, and, as he said he would venture to call it, wicked Lenity. To remit the Punishment of such Crimes was, he said, to encourage them. He enlarged much on the Correction of Children, and quoted many Texts from Solomon,

Solomon, and others ; which being to be found in so many other Books, shall not be found here. He then applied himself to the Vice of Lying, on which Head he was altogether as learned as he had been on the other.

Square said, he had been endeavouring to reconcile the Behaviour of *Tom* with his Idea of perfect Virtue ; but could not. He owned there was something which at first Sight appeared like Fortitude in the Action ; but as Fortitude was a Virtue, and Falshood a Vice, they could by no Means agree, or unite together. He added, that as this was in some measure to confound Virtue and Vice, it might be worth Mr. *Threäckum's* Consideration, whether a larger Castigation might not be laid on, upon that Account.

As both these learned Men concurred in censuring *Jones*, so were they no less unanimous in applauding Master *Blifil*. To bring Truth to light, was by the Parson asserted to be the Duty of every religious Man ; and by the Philosopher this was declared to be highly conformable with the Rule of Right, and the eternal and unalterable Fitness of Things.

All this, however, weighed very little with Mr. Allworthby. He could not be prevailed on to sign the Warrant for the Execution of *Jones*. There was something within his own Breast with which the invincible Fidelity which that Youth had preserved, corresponded much better than it had done with the Religion of *Tbwackum*, or with the Virtue of *Square*. He therefore strictly ordered the former of these Gentlemen to abstain from laying violent Hands on *Tom* for what had past. The Pedagogue was obliged to obey those Orders; but not without great Reluctance, and frequent Murmurings, that the Boy would be certainly spoiled.

Towards the Game-keeper the good Man behaved with more Severity. He presently summoned that poor Fellow before him, and after many bitter Remonstrances, paid him his Wages, and dismiss him from his Service; for Mr. Allworthby rightly observed that there was great Difference between being guilty of a Falsehood to excuse yourself, and to excuse another. He likewise urged, as the principal Motive to his inflexible Severity against this Man, that he had basely suffered *Tom Jones* to undergo so heavy a Punish-

Punishment for his Sake, whereas he ought to have prevented it by making the Discovery himself.

When this Story became public, many People differed from *Square* and *Thwackum*, in judging the Conduct of the two Lads on the Occasion. Master *Blifil* was generally called a sneaking Rascal, a poor-spirited Wretch ; with other Epithets of the like Kind ; whilst *Tom* was honoured with the Appellations of a brave Lad, a jolly Dog, and an honest Fellow. Indeed his Behaviour to *Black George* much ingratiated him with all the Servants ; for though that Fellow was before universally disliked, yet he was no sooner turned away than he was as universally pitied ; and the Friendship and Gallantry of *Tom Jones* was celebrated by them all with the highest Applause ; and they condemned Master *Blifil*, as openly as they durst, without incurring the Danger of offending his Mother. For all this, however, poor *Tom* smarted in the Flesh ; for though *Thwackum* had been inhibited to exercise his Arm on the foregoing Account ; yet, as the Proverb says, *It is easy to find a Stick, &c.* So was it easy to find a Rod ; and, indeed, the not being able to find one was the only thing which could have kept

Thwackum

Had the bare Delight in the Sport been the only Inducement to the Pedagogue, it is probable, Master *Blifil* would likewise have had his Share; but though Mr. *All-worthy* had given him frequent Orders to make no Difference between the Lads, yet was *Thwackum* altogether as kind and gentle to this Youth, as he was harsh, nay even barbarous, to the other. To say the Truth, *Blifil* had greatly gained his Master's Affections; partly by the profound Respect he always shewed his Person, but much more by the decent Reverence with which he received his Doctrine; for he had got by Heart, and frequently repeated his Phrases, and maintained all his Master's religious Principles with a Zeal which was surprising in one so young, and which greatly endeared him to the worthy Preceptor.

Tom Jones, on the other hand, was not only deficient in outward Tokens of Respect, often forgetting to pull off his Hat, or to bow at his Master's Approach; but was altogether as unmindful both of his Master's Precepts and Example. He was indeed a

thoughtless, giddy Youth, with little Sobriety in his Manners, and less in his Countenance ; and would often very impudently and indecently laugh at his Companion for his serious Behaviour.

Mr. Square had the same Reason for his Preference of the former Lad ; for Tom Jones shewed no more Regard to the learned Discourses which this Gentleman would sometimes throw away upon him, than to those of *Tbwackum*. He once ventured to make a Jest of the Rule of Right ; and at another Time said, He believed there was no Rule in the World capable of making such a Man as his Father, (for so Mr. Allworthy suffered himself to be called).

Master Blifil, on the contrary, had Address enough at sixteen to recommend himself at one and the same Time to both these Opposites. With one he was all Religion, with the other he was all Virtue. And when both were present, he was profoundly silent, which both interpreted in his Favour and their own.

Nor was Blifil contented with flattering both these Gentlemen to their Faces ; he took frequent Occasions of praising them

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behind their Backs to *Allworthy*; before whom, when they were alone together, and when his Uncle commended any religious or virtuous Sentiment (for many such came constantly from him) he seldom fail'd to ascribe it to the good Instructions he had received from either *Tbwackum* or *Square*: For he knew his Uncle repeated all such Compliments to the Persons for whose Use they were meant; and he found by Experience the great Impressions which they made on the Philosopher, as well as on the Divine: For, to say the Truth, there is no kind of Flattery so irresistible as this, at second Hand.

The young Gentleman, moreover, soon perceived how extremely grateful all those Panegyricks on his Instructors were to Mr. *Allworthy* himself, as they so loudly refounded the Praise of that singular Plan of Education which he had laid down: For this worthy Man having observed the imperfect Institution of our public Schools, and the many Vices which Boys were there liable to learn, had resolved to educate his Nephew, as well as the other Lad, whom he had in a Manner adopted, in his own House; where he thought their Morals would escape all that Danger of being corrupted,

rupted, to which they would be unavoidably exposed in any public School or University.

Having therefore determined to commit these Boys to the Tuition of a private Tutor, Mr. *Tbwackum* was recommended to him for that Office, by a very particular Friend, of whose Understanding Mr. *Allworthy* had a great Opinion, and in whose Integrity he placed much Confidence. This *Tbwackum* was Fellow of a College, where he almost entirely resided ; and had a great Reputation for Learning, Religion and Sobriety of Manners. And these were doubtless the Qualifications by which Mr. *Allworthy's* Friend had been induced to recommend him ; tho' indeed this Friend had some Obligations to *Tbwackum's* Family, who were the most considerable Persons in a Borough which that Gentleman represented in Parliament.

Tbwackum, at his first Arrival, was extremely agreeable to *Allworthy* ; and indeed he perfectly answered the Character which had been given of him. Upon longer Acquaintance, however, and more intimate Conversation, this worthy Man saw InfirmitieS in the Tutor, which he could have wished

wished him to have been without ; tho' as those seemed greatly over-ballanced by his good Qualities, they did not incline Mr. *Allworthy* to part with him ; nor would they indeed have justified such a Proceeding : For the Reader is greatly mistaken, if he conceives that *Tbwackum* appeared to Mr. *Allworthy* in the same Light as he doth to him in this History ; and he is as much deceived, if he imagines, that the most intimate Acquaintance which he himself could have had with that Divine, would have informed him of those Things which we, from our Inspiration, are enabled to open and discover. Of Readers who from such Conceits as these, condemn the Wisdom or Penetration of Mr. *Allworthy*, I shall not scruple to say, that they make a very bad and ungrateful Use of that Knowledge which we have communicated to them.

These apparent Errors in the Doctrine of *Tbwackum*, served greatly to palliate the contrary Errors in that of *Square*, which our good Man no less saw and condemned. He thought indeed that the different Exuberancies of these Gentlemen, would correct their different Imperfections ; and that from both, especially with his Assistance, the two Lads would derive sufficient Precepts of true Religion.

ligion and Virtue. If the Event happened contrary to his Expectations, this possibly proceeded from some Fault in the Plan it-self; which the Reader hath my Leave to discover, if he can: For we do not pretend to introduce any infallible Characters into this History; where we hope nothing will be found which hath never yet been seen in human Nature.

To return therefore to the Reader, will not, I think, wonder that the different Behaviour of the two Lads above commemo-rated, produced the different Effects; of which he hath already seen some Instance; and, besides this, there was another Reason for the Conduct of the Philosopher and the Pedagogue; but this being Matter of great Importance, we shall reveal it in the next Chapter.

C H A P. VI. *Containing a better Reason still for the before mentioned Opinions.*

IT is to be known then, that those two learned Personages, who have lately made a considerable Figure on the Theatre of

of this History, had from their first Arrival at Mr. *Allworthy's* House, taken so great an Affection, the one to his Virtue, the other to his Religion, that they had meditated the closest Alliance with him;

For this Purpose they had cast their Eyes on that fair Widow, whom, tho' we have not for some Time made any Mention of her, the Reader, we trust, hath not forgot. Mrs. *Blifil* was indeed the Object to which they both aspired.

It may seem remarkable that of four Persons whom we have commemorated at Mr. *Allworthy's* House, three of them should fix their Inclinations on a Lady who was never greatly celebrated for her Beauty, and who was, moreover, now a little descended into the Vale of Years; but in reality Bosom Friends, and intimate Acquaintance, have a kind of natural Propensity to particular Females at the House of a Friend; viz. to his Grand-mother, Mother, Sister, Daughter, Aunt, Niece and Cousin, when they are rich, and to his Wife, Sister, Daughter, Niece, Cousin, Mistress or Servant Maid, if they should be handsome.

We

We would not, however, have our Reader imagine, that Persons of such Characters as were supported by *Tbwackum* and *Square*, would undertake a Matter of this Kind, which hath been a little censured by some rigid Moralists, before they had thoroughly examined it, and considered whether it was (as *Shakespear* phrases it) ‘Stuff ‘o th’ Conscience’ or no. *Tbwackum* was encouraged to the Undertaking, by reflecting, that to court your Neighbour’s Sister is no where forbidden, and he knew it was a Rule in the Construction of all Laws, that “*Expressum facit cessare Tacitum*,” the Sense of which is, “When a Law-giver sets down plainly his whole Meaning, we are prevented from making him mean what we please ourselves.” As some Instances of Women, therefore, are mentioned in the divine Law, which forbids us to covet our Neighbours Goods, and that of a Sister omitted, he concluded it to be lawful. And as to *Square*, who was in his Person what is called a jolly Fellow, or a Widow’s Man, he easily reconciled his Choice to the eternal Fitness of Things.

Now, as both these Gentlemen were industrious in taking every Opportunity of recom-

recommending themselves to the Widow, they apprehended one certain Method was, by giving her Son the constant Preference to the other Lad; and as they conceived the Kindness and Affection which Mr. All-worthy shewed the latter, must be highly disagreeable to her, they doubted not but the laying hold on all Occasions to degrade and villify him, would be highly pleasing to her; who, as she hated the Boy, must love all those who did him any Hurt. In this *Thwackum* had the Advantage; for while *Square* could only scarify the poor Lad's Reputation, he could flea his Skin; and indeed he considered every Lash he gave him as a Compliment paid to his Mistress; so that he could with the utmost Propriety repeat this old flogging Line, “*Castigo te non quod odio habeam, sed quod, AMEM*; I chastize thee not out of Hatred, but out of Love.” And this indeed he often had in his Mouth, or rather, according to the old Phrase, never more properly applied, at his Fingers Ends.

For this Reason principally, the two Gentlemen concurred, as we have seen above, in their Opinion concerning the two Lads; this being indeed almost the only Instance of their concurring on any Point:

For

For beside the Difference of their Principles, they had both long ago strongly suspected each others Design, and hated one another with no little Degree of Inveteracy.

This mutual Animosity was a good deal increased by their alternate Successes : For Mrs. *Blifil* knew what they would be at long before they imagined it ; or indeed intended she should : For they proceeded with great Caution lest she should be offended, and acquaint Mr. *Allworthy* ; but they had no Reason for any such Fear. She was well enough pleased with a Passion of which she intended none should have any Fruits but herself. And the only Fruits she designed for herself were Flattery and Courtship ; for which Purpose, she soothed them by Turns, and a long Time equally. She was indeed rather inclined to favour the Parson's Principles ; but *Square's* Person was more agreeable to her Eye ; for he was a comely Man ; whereas the Pedagogue did in Countenance very nearly resemble that Gentleman, who in the *Harlot's Progress* is seen correcting the Ladies in *Bridewell*.

Whether Mrs. *Blifil* had been surfeited with the Sweets of Marriage, or disgusted
by

by its Bitters, or from what other Cause it proceeded, I will not determine ; but she could never be brought to listen to any second Proposals. However, she at last conversed with *Square*, with such a Degree of Intimacy, that malicious Tongues began to whisper Things of her, to which, as well for the Sake of the Lady, as that they were highly disagreeable to the Rule of Right, and the Fitness of Things, we will give no Credit ; and therefore shall not blot our Paper with them. The Pedagogue, 'tis certain, whipt on without getting a Step nearer to his Journey's End.

Indeed he had committed a great Error, and that *Square* discovered much sooner than himself. Mrs. *Blifil* (as perhaps the Reader may have formerly gues'd) was not over and above pleased with the Behaviour of her Husband ; nay, to be honest, she absolutely hated him, till his Death at last a little reconciled him to her Affections. It will not be therefore greatly wondered at, if she had not the most violent Regard to the Offspring she had by him. And, in fact, she had so little of this Regard, that in his Infancy she seldom saw her Son, or took any Notice of him ; and hence she acquiesced, after a little Reluctance, in all

the Favours which Mr. *Allworthy* showered on the Foundling ; whom the good Man called his own Boy, and in all Things put on an intire Equality with Master *Blifil*. This Acquiescence in Mrs. *Blifil* was considered by the Neighbours, and by the Family, as a Mark of her Condescension to her Brother's Humour, and she was imagined by all others, as well as *Tbwackum* and *Square*, to hate the Foundling in her Heart ; nay, the more Civility she shewed him, the more they conceived she detested him, and the surer Schemes she was laying for his Ruin : For as they thought it her Interest to hate him, it was very difficult for her to persuade them she did not.

Tbwackum was the more confirmed in his Opinion, as she had more than once slyly caused him to whip *Tom Jones*, when Mr. *Allworthy*, who was an Enemy to this Exercise, was abroad ; whereas she had never given any such Orders concerning young *Blifil*. And this had likewise imposed upon *Square*. In reality, though she certainly hated her own Son ; of which, however monstrous it appears, I am assured she is not a singular Instance, she appeared, notwithstanding all her outward Compliance, to be in her Heart sufficiently displeased with

all the Favour shewn by Mr. *Allworthy* to the Foundling. She frequently complained of this behind her Brother's Back, and very sharply censured him for it, both to *T'wackum* and *Square*; nay, she wou'd throw it in the Teeth of *Allworthy* himself, when a little Quarrel or Miff, as it is vulgarly called, arose between them.

However, when *Tom* grew up, and gave Tokens of that Gallantry of Temper which greatly recommends Men to Women, this Disinclination which she had discovered to him when a Child, by Degrees abated, and at last she so evidently demonstrated her Affection to him to be much stronger than what she bore her own Son, that it was impossible to mistake her any longer. She was so desirous of often seeing him, and discovered such Satisfaction and Delight in his Company, that before he was eighteen Years old, he was become a Rival to both *Square* and *T'wackum*; and what is worse, the whole Country began to talk as loudly of her Inclination to *Tom*, as they had before done of that which she had shewn to *Square*; on which Account the Philosopher conceived the most implacable Hatred for our poor Hero.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

In which the Author himself makes his Appearance on the Stage.

THO' Mr. *Allworthy* was not of himself hasty to see Things in a disadvantageous Light, and was a Stranger to the public Voice, which seldom reaches to a Brother or a Husband, tho' it rings in the Ears of all the Neighbourhood; yet was this Affection of Mrs. *Blifil* to *Tom*, and the Preference which she too visibly gave him to her own Son, of the utmost Disadvantage to that Youth.

For such was the Compassion which inhabited Mr. *Allworthy's* Mind, that nothing but the Steel of Justice could ever subdue it. To be unfortunate in any Respect was sufficient, if there was no Demerit to counterpoise it, to turn the Scale of that good Man's Pity, and to engage his Friendship, and his Benefaction.

When therefore he plainly saw Master *Blifil* was absolutely detested (for that he was) by his own Mother, he began, on that Ac-

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count only, to look with an Eye of Compassion upon him ; and what the Effects of Compassion are in good and benevolent Minds, I need not here explain to most of my Readers.

Henceforward, he saw every Appearance of Virtue in the Youth thro' the magnifying End, and viewed all his Faults with the Glass inverted, so that they became scarce perceptible. And this perhaps the amiable Temper of Pity may make commendable ; but the next Step the Weakness of human Nature alone must excuse : For he no sooner perceived that Preference which Mrs. Blifil gave to Tom, than that poor Youth, (however innocent) began to sink in his Affections as he rose in hers. This, it is true, would of itself alone never have been able to eradicate Jones from his Bosom ; but, it was greatly injurious to him, and prepared Mr. Allworthy's Mind for those Impressions, which afterwards produced the mighty Events, that will be contained hereafter in this History ; and to which, it must be confess, the unfortunate Lad, by his own Wantonness, Wildness, and Want of Caution, too much contributed.

In

In recording some Instances of these, we shall, if rightly understood, afford a very useful Lesson to those well-disposed Youths, who shall hereafter be our Readers : For they may here find that Goodness of Heart, and Openness of Temper, tho' these may give them great Comfort within, and administer to an honest Pride in their own Minds, will by no Means, alas ! do their Business in the World. Prudence and Circumspection are necessary even to the best of Men. They are indeed as it were a Guard to Virtue, without which she can never be safe. It is not enough that your Designs, nay that your Actions are intrinsically good; you must take Care they shall appear so. If your Inside be never so beautiful, you must preserve a fair Outside also. This must be constantly looked to, or Malice and Envy will take Care to blacken it so, that the Sagacity and Goodness of an *Allworth* will not be able to see through it, and to discern the Beauties within. Let this, my young Readers, be your constant Maxim, That no Man can be good enough to enable him to neglect the Rules of Prudence ; nor will Virtue herself look beautiful, unless she be bedecked with the outward Ornaments of Decency and Decorum. And this Precept,

cept, my worthy Disciples, if you read with due Attention, you will, I hope, find sufficiently enforced by Examples in the following Pages.

I ask Pardon for this short Appearance, by Way of Chorus on the Stage: It is in Reality for my own Sake, that while I am discovering the Rocks on which Innocence and Goodness often split, I may not be misunderstood to recommend the very Means to my worthy Readers, by which I intend to shew them they will be undone. And this, as I could not prevail on any of my Actors to speak, I was obliged to declare myself.

C H A P. VIII.

A childish Incident, in which, however, is seen a good natur'd Disposition in Tom Jones.

THE Reader may remember, that Mr. Allworthy gave Tom Jones a little Horse, as a kind of smart Money for the Punishment, which he imagined he had suffered innocently.

This

This Horse Tom kept above half a Year, and then rode him to a neighbouring Fair, and sold him.

At his Return, being questioned by *Tbwackum*, what he had done with the Money for which the Horse was sold, he frankly declared he would not tell him.

Oho! says *Tbwackum*, you will not then I will have it out of your Br—h; that being the Place to which he always applied for Information, on every doubtful Occasion.

Tom was now mounted on the Back of a Footman, and every Thing prepared for Execution, when Mr. *Allworthy* entering the Room, gave the Criminal a Reprieve, and took him with him into another Apartment; where Mr. *Allworthy* being only present with *Tom*, he put the same Question to him which *Tbwackum* had before asked him.

Tom answered, He could in Duty refuse him nothing; but as for that tyrannical Rascal, he would never make him any other Answer than with a Cudgel, with

Mr. Allworthy very severely reprimanded the Lad, for his indecent and disrespectful Expressions concerning his Master; but much more for his avowing an Intention of Revenge... He threatened him with the entire Loss of his Favour, if he ever heard such another Word from his Mouth; for he said, he would never support or befriend a Reproba te. By these and the like Declarations, he extorted some Compunction from Tom, in which that Youth was not over sincere: For he really meditated some Return for all the smarting Favours he had received at the Hands of the Pedagogue. He was, however, brought by Mr. Aliworthy to express a Concern for his Resentment against Thwackum; and then the good Man, after some wholesome Admonition, permitted him to proceed, which he did, as follows.

Indeed, my dear Sir, I love and honour you more than all the World; I know the great Obligations I have to you, and should detest myself, if I thought my Heart was capable of Ingratitude. Could the little Horse you gave me speak, I am sure he could tell you how fond I

• was of your Present : For I had more
• Pleasure in feeding him, than in riding
• him. Indeed, Sir, it went to my Heart
• to part with him ; nor would I have sold
• him upon any other Account in the
• World than what I did ! You yourself,
• Sir, I am convinced, in my Case, woud
• have done the same : For none ever so
• sensibly felt the Misfortunes of others.
• What would you feel, dear Sir, if you
• thought yourself the Occasion of them ?—
• Indeed, Sir, there never was any Misery
• like theirs.—Like whose, Child,” says
• *Allworthy*, “ what do you mean ? Oh,
• Sir,” answered *Tom*, “ your poor Game
• keeper, with all his large Family, ever
• since your discarding him, have been peck
• ishing with all the Miseries of Cold and
• Hunger... I could not bear to see these
• poor Wretches naked and starving ; and
• at the same Time know myself to have
• been the Occasion of all their Sufferings.
• I could not bear it, Sir, upon my Soul, I
• could not.” (Here the Tears run down
• his Cheeks, and he thus proceeded) “ It
• was to save them from absolute Destru^c
• tion, I parted with your dear Present,
• notwithstanding all the Value I had for it.
• —I sold the Horse for them, and they
• have every Farthing of the Money.”

Mr. Allworthy now stood silent for some Moments, and before he spoke, the Tears started from his Eyes. He at length dismissed Tom with a gentle Rebuke, advising him for the future to apply to him in Cases of Distress, rather than to use extraordinary Means of relieving them himself.

This Affair was afterward's the Subject of much Debate between Thwackum and Square. Thwackum held, that this was flying in Mr. Allworthy's Face, who had intended to punish the Fellow for his Disobedience. He said, in some Instances, what the World called Charity appeared to him to be opposing the Will of the Almighty, which had marked some particular Persons for Destruction ; and that this was in like manner acting in Opposition to Mr. Allworthy; concluding, as usual, with a hearty Recommendation of Birch.

Square argued strongly, on the other Side, in Opposition perhaps to Thwackum, or in Compliance with Mr. Allworthy, who seemed very much to approve what Jones had done. As to what he urged on this Occasion, as I am convinced most of my Readers will be much abler Advocates for poor Jones, it

it would be impertinent to relate it. Indeed it was not difficult to reconcile to the *Rule of Right*, an Action which it would have been impossible to deduce from the *Rule of Wrong*. as a man may be bound by a promise he makes to himself, or by a right he has to do what he pleases with his own property.

C H A P. IX.

Containing an Incident of a more serious Kind, with the Comments of Thwackum and Square.

IT hath been observed by some Man of much greater Reputation for Wisdom than myself, that Misfortunes seldom come single. An Instance of this may, I believe, be seen in those Gentlemen who have the Misfortune to have any of their Rogueries detected; For here Discovery seldom stops till the whole is come out. Thus, it happened to poor Tom; who was no sooner pardoned for selling the Horse, than he was discovered to have some time before sold a fine Bible which Mr. Allworthy gave him, the Money arising from which Sale he had disposed in the same Manner. This Bible Master Blifil had purchased, though he had already such another of his own, partly out of Respect for the Book, and partly out of

Friendship to *Tom*, being unwilling that the Bible should be sold out of the Family at half Price. He therefore deposited the said half Price himself; for he was a very prudent Lad, and so careful of his Money, that he had laid up almost every Penny which he had received from Mr. *Allworthy*.

Some People have been noted to be able to read in no Book but their own. On the contrary, from the Time when Master *Blifil* was first possessed of this Bible, he never used any other. Nay, he was seen reading in it much oftner than he had before been in his own. Now, as he frequently asked *Tbwackum* to explain difficult Passages to him, that Gentleman unfortunately took Notice of *Tom's* Name, which was written in many Parts of the Book. This brought on an Enquiry, which obliged Master *Blifil* to discover the whole Matter.

Tbwackum was resolved, a Crime of this Kind, which he called Sacrilege, should not go unpunished. He therefore proceeded immediately to Castigation; and not contented with that, he acquainted Mr. *Allworthy*, at their next Meeting, with this monstrous Crime, as it appeared to him; inveigh-

inveighing against *Tom* in the most bitter Terms, and likening him to the Buyers and Sellers who were driven out of the Temple.

Square saw this Matter in a very different Light. He said, He could not perceive any higher Crime in selling one Book, than in selling another. That to sell Bibles was strictly lawful by all Laws both divine and human, and consequently there was no Unfitness in it. He told *Thwackum* that his great Concern on this Occasion brought to his Mind the Story of a very devout Woman, who out of pure Regard to Religion, stole *Tillotson's* Sermons from a Lady of her Acquaintance.

This Story caused a vast Quantity of Blood to rush into the Parson's Face, which of itself was none of the palest ; and he was going to reply with great Warmth and Anger, had not Mrs. *Blifil*, who was present at this Debate, interposed. That Lady declared herself absolutely of Mr. *Square's* Side. She argued, indeed, very learnedly in Support of his Opinion ; and concluded with saying, If *Tom* had been guilty of any Fault, she must confess her own Son appeared to be equally culpable ; for that she could see no Difference

Mrs. Blifil having declared her Opinion, put an End to the Debate. Square's Triumphant would almost have stopt his Words, had he needed them ; and Tbwackum, besides that, for Reasons before-mentioned, he durst not venture at disobliging the Lady, was almost choaked with Indignation. As to Mr. Allworthy, he said, Since the Boy had been already punished, he would not deliver his Sentiments on the Occasion ; and whether he was, or was not angry with the Lad, I must leave to the Reader's own Conjecture.

Soon after this, an Action was brought against the Game-keeper by 'Squire Western (the Gentleman in whose Manor the Partridge was killed) for Depredations of the like Kind. This was a most unfortunate Circumstance for the Fellow, as it not only of itself threatened his Ruin, but actually prevented Mr. Allworthy from restoring him to his Favour : For as that Gentleman was walking out one Evening with Master Blifil and young Jones, the latter slyly drew him to the Habitation of Black George ; where

where the Family of that poor Wretch, namely, his Wife and Children, were found in all the Misery with which Cold, Hunger, and Nakedness, can affect human Creatures: For as to the Money they had received from *Jones*, former Debts had consumed almost the whole.

Such a Scene as this could not fail of affecting the Heart of Mr. *Allworthy*. He immediately gave the Mother a couple of Guineas, with which he bid her cloath her Children. The poor Woman burst into Tears at this Goodness, and while she was thanking him, could not refrain from expressing her Gratitude to *Tom*; who had, she said, long preserved both her and hers from starving. We have not, says she, had a Morsel to eat, nor have these poor Children had a Rag to put on; but what his Goodness hath bestowed on us: For indeed, besides the Horse and the Bible, *Tom* had sacrificed a Night-gown and other Things to the Use of this distressed Family.

On their Return home, *Tom* made use of all his Eloquence to display the Wretchedness of these People, and the Penitence of *Black George* himself; and in this he succeeded so well, that Mr. *Allworthy* said, He

thought

thought the Man had suffered enough for what was past ; that he would forgive him, and think of some Means of providing for him and his Family.

Jones was so delighted with this News, that though it was dark when they returned home, he could not help going back a Mile in a Shower of Rain to acquaint the poor Woman with the glad Tidings ; but, like other hasty Divulgors of News, he only brought on himself the Trouble of contradicting it : For the Ill-fortune of *Black George* made use of the very Opportunity of his Friend's Absence to overturn all again.

C H A P. X.

In which Master Blifil and Jones appear in different Lights.

MASTER *Blifil* fell very short of his Companion in the amiable Quality of Mercy ; but he as greatly exceeded him in one of a much higher Kind, namely, in Justice : In which he followed both the Pre-

cepts.

cepts and Example of *Tbwackum* and *Square*; for though they would both make frequent Use of the Word *Mercy*, yet it was plain, that in reality *Square* held it to be inconsistent with the Rule of Right; and *Tbwackum* was for doing Justice, and leaving Mercy to Heaven. The two Gentlemen did indeed somewhat differ in Opinion concerning the Objects of this sublime Virtue; by which *Tbwackum* would probably have destroyed one half of Mankind, and *Square* the other half.

Master *Blifil* then, though he had kept Silence in the Presence of *Jones*, yet when he had better considered the Matter, he could by no Means endure the Thought of suffering his Uncle to confer Favours on the Undeserving. He therefore resolved immediately to acquaint him with the Fact which we have above slightly hinted to the Readers. The Truth of which was as follows:

The Game-keeper, about a Year after he was dismissed from Mr. *Allworthy's* Service, and before *Tom's* selling the Horse, being in Want of Bread, either to fill his own Mouth, or those of his Family, as he passed through

a Field belonging to Mr. *Western*, espied a Hare sitting in her Form. This Hare he had basely and barbarously knock'd on the Head, against the Laws of the Land, and no less against the Laws of Sportsmen.

. The Higler to whom the Hare was sold, being unfortunately taken many Months after with a Quantity of Game upon him, was obliged to make his Peace with the 'Squire by becoming Evidence against some Poacher. And now *Black George* was pitched upon by him as being a Person already obnoxious to Mr. *Western*, and one of no good Fame in the Country. He was, besides, the best Sacrifice the Higler could make, as he had supplied him with no Game since ; and by this Means the Witness had an Opportunity of screening his better Customers : For the 'Squire, being charmed with the Power of punishing *Black George*, whom a single Transgression was sufficient to ruin, made no further Enquiry.

. Had this Fact been truly laid before Mr. *Allworthy*, it might probably have done the Game-keeper very little Mischief. But there is no Zeal blinder than that which is inspired

inspired with the Love of Justice against Offenders. Master *Blifil* had forgot the Distance of the Time. He varied likewise in the Manner of the Fact ; and, by the hasty Addition of the single Letter S, he considerably altered the Story ; for he said that *George* had wired Hares. These Alterations might probably have been set right, had not Master *Blifil* unluckily insisted on a Premise of Secrecy from Mr. *Allworthy*, before he revealed the Matter to him ; but by that Means, the poor Game-keeper was condemned, without having any Opportunity to defend himself : For as the Fact of killing the Hare, and of the Action brought, were certainly true, Mr. *Allworthy* had no Doubt concerning the rest,

Short-lived then was the Joy of these poor People ; for Mr. *Allworthy* the next Morning declared he had fresh Reason, without assigning it, for his Anger, and strictly forbade *Tom* to mention *George* any more ; though as for his Family, he said, he would endeavour to keep them from starving ; but as to the Fellow himself, he would leave him to the Laws, which nothing could keep him from breaking.

Tom

Tom could by no Means divine what had incensed Mr. *Allworthy*: For of Master *Blifil* he had not the least Suspicion. However, as his Friendship was to be tired out by no Disappointments, he now determined to try another Method of preserving the poor Game-keeper from Ruin.

Jones was lately grown very intimate with Mr. *Western*. He had so greatly recommended himself to that Gentleman, by leaping over five-barred Gates, and by other Acts of Sportmanship, that the Squire had declared *Tom* would certainly make a great Man, if he had but sufficient Encouragement. He often wished he had himself a Son with such Parts; and one Day very solemnly asserted at a drinking Bout, that *Tom* should hunt a Pack of Hounds for a thousand Pound of his Money, with any Huntsman in the whole County.

By such kind of Talents he had so ingratiated himself with the Squire, that he was a most welcome Guest at his Table, and a favourite Companion in his Sport: Every Thing which the Squire held most dear; to wit, his Guns, Dogs, and Horses, were now as much at the Command of

Jones,

Jones, as if they had been his own. He resolved therefore to make use of this Favour on Behalf of his Friend *Black George*, whom he hoped to introduce into Mr. *Western's* Family in the same Capacity in which he had before served Mr. *Allworthy*.

The Reader, if he considers that this Fellow was already obnoxious to Mr. *Western*, and if he considers farther the weighty Business by which that Gentleman's Displeasure had been incurred, will perhaps condemn this as a foolish and desperate Undertaking; but if he should not totally condemn young Jones on that Account, he will greatly applaud him for strengthening himself with all imaginable Interest on so arduous an Occasion.

For this Purpose then *Tom* applied to Mr. *Western's* Daughter, a young Lady of about seventeen Years of Age, whom her Father, next after those necessary Implements of Sport just before-mentioned, loved and esteemed above all the World. Now as she had some Influence on the Squire, so *Tom* had some little Influence on her. But this being the intended Heroine of this Work,

Work, a Lady with whom we are ourselves greatly in Love, and with whom many of our Readers will probably be in Love too before we part, it is by no Means proper she should make her Appearance at the End of a Book.

The End of the First Volume.



Or rather, I have
To you, Sir, my
Best regards, and
I hope you will
Accept this small
Token of my regard,
Although it has cost me
A great deal of trouble,
And I have not had time
To finish it, but I
will be more diligent
in the future, and
will not let you
wait so long for
another.

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